

GOAL! WEEKLY

Season 2: Issue 5

Monday 27 Feb 06: \$3

VODAFONE CUP LATEST RESULTS

Cannons 2 - 2 Kingston
Pines 2 - 2 Bergers
Magic 3 - 2 Royals
South 2 - 1 Lions
Georgies 0 - 2 Knights
Gully 1 - 1 Eagles
Zebras v Blues Playing Tonight



ACTION APLENTY IN ROUND 4 OF VODAFONE CUP



The 90th Minute - SEN 1116
Every Sunday 5pm Onwards
With Michael Zappone and Paul Trimboli



Plus ► World Football ► Women's Premier League ► State Two Fixtures and More....



STATE LEAGUE TWO n/w

Fixtures



Round 1

- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Altona City v Westgate Kim Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Westvale v Williamstown McKechnie Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Maribyrnong Greens Keilor Park Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Yarraville Glory HR Uren Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Pascoe Vale Epping Soccer Stadium
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Banyule City Campbell Reserve

Round 2

- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Moreland City Hosken Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Thomastown Devils McIvor Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Lalor United Skinner Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Keilor Park JT Grey Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Altona City Yallambie Park Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 7:00PM Westgate v Westvale Ardeer Reserve

Round 3

- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Westvale v Altona City McKechnie Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Westgate Keilor Park Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Williamstown HR Uren Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Maribyrnong Greens Epping Soccer Stadium
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Yarraville Glory Campbell Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Banyule City Hosken Reserve

Round 4

- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Pascoe Vale McIvor Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Moreland City Skinner Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Thomastown Devils JT Grey Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Westgate Yallambie Park Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Altona City v Keilor Park Kim Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 7:00PM Westgate v Lalor United Ardeer Reserve

Round 5

- 6 May 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Westvale Keilor Park Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Altona City HR Uren Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Westgate Epping Soccer Stadium
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Williamstown Campbell Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Maribyrnong Greens Hosken Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Banyule City McIvor Reserve

Round 6

- 13 May 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Yarraville Glory Skinner Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Pascoe Vale JT Grey Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Keilor Park Yallambie Park Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Altona City v Thomastown Devils Kim Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Westgate v Lalor United McKechnie Reserve
- 13 May 06 7:00PM Westgate v Moreland City Ardeer Reserve

Round 7

- 20 May 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Keilor Park HR Uren Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Westgate Epping Soccer Stadium
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Altona City Campbell Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Westgate Hosken Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Williamstown McIvor Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Banyule City Skinner Reserve

Round 8

- 27 May 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Maribyrnong Greens JT Grey Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Lalor United Yallambie Park Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Altona City v Pascoe Vale Kim Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Westgate v Moreland City McKechnie Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Thomastown Devils Keilor Park Reserve
- 27 May 06 7:00PM Westgate v Yarraville Glory Ardeer Reserve

Round 9

- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Lalor United Epping Soccer Stadium
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Keilor Park Campbell Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Westgate Hosken Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Altona City McIvor Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Westgate Skinner Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Banyule City JT Grey Reserve

Round 10

- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Banyule City Epping Soccer Stadium
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Westgate v Yarraville Glory McKechnie Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Pascoe Vale Keilor Park Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Moreland City HR Uren Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Altona City v Maribyrnong Greens Kim Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 7:00PM Westgate v Williamstown Ardeer Reserve

Round 11

- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Thomastown Devils Campbell Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Lalor United Hosken Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Keilor Park McIvor Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Westgate Skinner Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Altona City JT Grey Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Westgate Yallambie Park Reserve

Round 12

- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Westgate JT Grey Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Keilor Park Skinner Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Lalor United McIvor Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Thomastown Devils Hosken Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Moreland City Yallambie Park Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 7:00PM Westgate v Altona City Ardeer Reserve

Round 13

- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Pascoe Vale Campbell Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Yarraville Glory Epping Soccer Stadium
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Maribyrnong Greens HR Uren Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Williamstown Keilor Park Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Altona City v Banyule City Kim Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Westgate v Westgate McKechnie Reserve

Round 14

- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Altona City v Westvale Kim Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Lalor United JT Grey Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Thomastown Devils Skinner Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Moreland City McIvor Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Pascoe Vale Yallambie Park Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 7:00PM Westgate v Keilor Park Ardeer Reserve

Round 15

- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Yarraville Glory Hosken Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Maribyrnong Greens Campbell Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Williamstown Epping Soccer Stadium
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Westgate v Banyule City McKechnie Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Westgate HR Uren Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Altona City Keilor Park Reserve

Round 16

- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Westgate v Keilor Park McKechnie Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Altona City v Lalor United Kim Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Moreland City JT Grey Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Pascoe Vale Skinner Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Yarraville Glory Yallambie Park Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 7:00PM Westgate v Thomastown Devils Ardeer Reserve

Round 17

- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Maribyrnong Greens McIvor Reserve
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Williamstown Hosken Reserve
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Banyule City Keilor Park Reserve
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Westgate Campbell Reserve
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Altona City Epping Soccer Stadium
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Westgate HR Uren Reserve

Round 18

- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Lalor United Keilor Park Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Westgate v Thomastown Devils McKechnie Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Altona City v Moreland City Kim Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Yarraville Glory JT Grey Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Maribyrnong Greens Yallambie Park Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 7:00PM Westgate v Pascoe Vale Ardeer Reserve

Round 19

- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Williamstown Skinner Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Banyule City HR Uren Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Westgate McIvor Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Altona City Hosken Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Westgate Campbell Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Keilor Park Epping Soccer Stadium

Round 20

- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Thomastown Devils HR Uren Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Moreland City Keilor Park Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Westgate v Pascoe Vale McKechnie Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Altona City v Yarraville Glory Kim Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Williamstown Yallambie Park Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 7:00PM Westgate v Maribyrnong Greens Ardeer Reserve

Round 21

- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Banyule City v Thomastown Devils Yallambie Park Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Williamstown v Westgate JT Grey Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Yarraville Glory v Westgate McIvor Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Pascoe Vale v Keilor Park Hosken Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Moreland City v Lalor United Campbell Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Maribyrnong Greens v Altona City Skinner Reserve

Round 22

- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Thomastown Devils v Moreland City Epping Soccer Stadium
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Lalor United v Pascoe Vale HR Uren Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Keilor Park v Yarraville Glory Keilor Park Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Westgate v Maribyrnong Greens McKechnie Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Altona City v Williamstown Kim Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Westgate v Banyule City Ardeer Reserve

Draw Notes:

NO MATCHES 15/16 April 2006 - Easter Weekend

Catch-Up Round 12/13 August 2006 - FFV will notify clubs playing on this weekend

Kim Reserve: Millers Rd Altona (54 K9)
 McKechnie Reserve: McKechnie Street, St Albans (25 K1)
 Keilor Park Reserve: Stadium Drive Keilor (15 B5)
 HR Uren Reserve: Victoria Drive Thomastown (8 D8)
 Epping Soccer Stadium: Harvest Home Road, Epping (182 C4)
 Campbell Reserve: Moore Street, Coburg (30 A4)
 Hosken Reserve: Sheppard St, Coburg (17 G8)
 McIvor Reserve: Fogarty Avenue, Spotswood (41 G10)
 Skinner Reserve: 115 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook (41 C1)
 Grey Reserve: Kororoit Creek Road, Williamstown (55 E7)
 Yallambie Park Reserve: Kardinia Drive, Yallambie (20 K9)
 Ardeer Reserve: Yallourn Street, Ardeer (26 B10)

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CELESKI AND DIACO
GET THEIR STRIPES BACK

Former A-League players Billy Celeski and Ricky Diaco return to the Veneto Club this week

Billy Celeski and Ricky Diaco have had their transfers cleared and will once again play in the famous black and white stripes of Bulleen Zebras.

Both players return to the Vodafone Cup competition after stints in the A-League.

Diaco was permanently re-signed from Melbourne Victory, whilst Celeski is on loan from Perth Glory until the A-League re-commences for season 2006/07.

Coach Michael Michalakopoulos was ecstatic about the news and said, "Ricky and Billy are two players I rate very highly and hopefully they can help us on the way up again. The whole squad has lifted since their introduction."

Asked if both players will start in Monday's game with Fawkner, Michael said

"They will definitely start. Both players are keen and eager to play and will have a lot to prove. Even at training this week they've both made it clear that they're definitely available for selection."

"Although Ricky hasn't played a great deal

DIAMOND VALLEY CUP

Diamond Valley will once again hold the Diamond Valley Cup. The Cup will be held at Partington's Flats, Kalparin Avenue, Greensborough on Saturday 4th March. Six teams will take part; Moreland, North Coburg, Sunbury, Greensborough and two teams entered from the host club. The day will kick-off at 10am with a game between Diamond Valley 'B' and Moreland and conclude at approx. 4pm. The Cup was first played in 1977 and has been won by teams including Richmond, Thomastown, Banyule and Preston's Youth side.

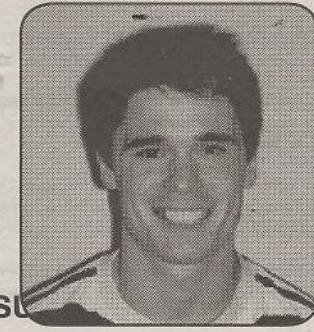
Teams are split into two groups of three and will play a round-robin in the initial phase. The winner of each group will play off in the Final of the Diamond Valley Cup. In addition to the football there will be various activities for children including a bouncy castle.

Entry is free and there will be plenty of food and refreshments on sale throughout the day. For further enquiries contact Neilson on 0413 339 428 or Stuart on 9305 6721.

SHORT PASSES

ROSS HEADS BACK TO UK

Andy Ross has played his last game for the Richmond Eagles. Ross has scored himself a full-time coaching job at one of David Beckham's Academies and has returned to the UK. In his new role Andy should be able to teach the youngsters a thing or two of "what not to do". To cap off his final game against the Knights last week Andy managed to get his name on the scoresheet. Only thing was, it was an own goal in the Knight's 2-0 win over the Eagles.



Andy Ross is heading to back to the UK to bend it with Beckham.

Meanwhile, Richmond's Xhezzir Sulemani has done his hamstring again and looks to be out for about 4 to 6 weeks. Also on the list is teammate Craig Murphy who damaged his ribs when he fell off his motorcycle midweek. According to reports, it will be 4 or 5 weeks before he'll be up and running again.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Richmond Eagles get the chance to have a hit-out on its home turf for the first time this year when it plays a friendly match against Dandenong Thunder at Kevin Bartlett Reserve this Wednesday night. KO is intended for 7.30pm.

Bulleen Zebras will tackle Division Two side Westgate on Friday night to give coach Michael Michalakopoulos a chance to take a closer look at some of the younger players in his squad. The match will take place at Westgate and KO is intended for 7pm.

Frankston Pines has organised a friendly against Cranbourne Comets for Saturday at Monterey Reserve. KO 4pm. Both squads will mainly consist of reserve players.

Oakleigh Cannons and Heidelberg United will do the same with a game organised to take place at Jack Edwards Reserve for this Friday. KO 8.30pm.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

State League Division side Dandenong Thunder has installed floodlights at its ground. Following the recent acquisition to the ground Thunder will become another side to experiment with Friday night football and play its home games under lights for the coming season. The Victorian State League season commences on the weekend of April 1st.

CLASSIFIEDS

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VODAFONE CUP

DETAILS



ROUND FOUR DETAILS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 2 - 2 KINGSTON CITY

Venue: Jack Edwards Reserve Friday 24th February Crowd: 3,000 (HT 1-2)

GOALS: P.Kakos (OK) 16th, M.Curcija (KC) 39th & 44th, E.Masala (OK) 92nd.

YELLOW CARDS: G.Goutzioulis (OK) 77th, F.Rosman (OK) 79th.

RED CARDS: None.

KINGSTON: M.Turnbull, S.Iosifidis, C.Anthopoulos, C.Konstans, M.Stergiopoulos (T.Brodie 76th), N.Tolios, A.Kiratzoglou, J.Di Iorio (N.Papadopoulos 91st), J.Spiteri, M.Curcija (C.Hermosilla 84th).

OAKLEIGH: S.Webster, F.Rosman, S.Poutakidis, A.Kovacic, S.Webster, G.Goutzioulis, B.Damianos (J.Nilo 89th), P.Kakos (T.Vulivuli 63rd), A.Pelikan (C.Pino 63rd), E.Masi, R.Kumar.

ALTONA MAGIC 3 - 2 ESSENDON ROYALS

Venue: Paisley Park Saturday 25th February Crowd: 500 (HT 3-0)

GOALS: S.Becvinovski (AM) 26th, D.Vasilevski (AM) 30th, Own Goal (AM) 32nd, J.Youseff (ER) 60th, M.Mazzarella (ER) 76th pen.

YELLOW CARDS: M.Catalano (ER) 37th, B.Jevdevic (AM) 75th.

RED CARDS: None.

MAGIC: B.Jevdevic, L.Osman, D.Mladanovic, K.Delev, K.Delev, A.Opazo, S.Mrkela, S.Becvinovski, (V.Trpcevski 86th), I.Razov (I.Arsovski 75th), P.Cergovski, D.Vasilevski (I.Kolevski 60th).

ROYALS: M.Sutalo, D.Ferguson, N.Thomas, S.Pir, D.Pilic, J.Youseff, L.Catalano, M.Mazzarella, M.Catalano, M.Medjedovic, C.Miles (F.Catalano 80th).

FRANKSTON PINES 2 - 2 HEIDELBERG UTD

Venue: Monterey Reserve Saturday 25th February Crowd: 350 (HT 0-1)

GOALS: S.Parriso (HU) 38th, A.Oliviera (FP) 83rd, T.Nagliari (FP) 87th, F.Richards (HU) 89th.

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS:

PINES: K.Mclvor, D.Djubic, J.Cumming, M.Anderson, C.Metcalf, B.Oucin (B.Cullan 80th), A.Nagliari, A.Oliviera, N.Waite, C.Leopold, A.Psonis (L.Tairi 82nd).

BERGERS: L.Acevski, R.Liparoti, D.Jones, P.Roberts, L.Tsourmerkas, E.Vassiliadis, Y.Yusef, A.Gjuni, A.Westervelt, T.Oularis, N.marinos

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 - 1 PRESTON LIONS

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium Sunday 26th February (HT 0-0)

GOALS: NA

South: NA

Lions: NA

GREEN GULLY 1 - 1 RICHMOND EAGLES

Venue: Green Gully Reserve Sunday 26th February Crowd: 300 (HT 0-1)

GOALS: D.Visevic (RE) 14th M.Sanders (GG) 83rd,

YELLOW CARDS: S.Webster 24th, S.Burton (90th) J.Baskerville (43rd), T.Celentano 73rd, R.Vargas 43rd, A.Vargas 28th, L.Lapsansky 47th, D.Debevc 24th

RED CARDS: None.

GULLY: P.Schwalger, R.Vargas, D.Fak, Z.Markovski (P.Riccobene HT), J.Flemming, J.Nikolic, R.Ollerton, D.Nastevski (M.Batinovic), A.Vargas, L.Lapsansky, D.Debevc (M.Sanders 49th)

EAGLES: N.Crossley, B.Beni, S.Webster, S.Burton, J.Baskerville, J.Rajher, C.Jones, T.Celentano (S.Sivic 75th), D.Visevic (C.Jones 81st), G.Hockless, V.Korkarevski, I.Ibrahim (S.Rusmir HT),

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 0 - 2 MELB KNIGHTS

Venue: Chaplin Reserve Sunday 26th February Crowd: 2,000 (HT 0-1)

GOALS: N.Caldwell 1, G.Talevski 48th

YELLOW CARDS: T.Milardovic, N.Antic, M.Maisano, J.Kozic, B.Gilmour, J.Cvetanovski, T.Nixon

RED CARDS: None.

KNIGHTS: A.Cagalj, T.Milardovic, N.Antic, R.Casey, C.Elvin, M.Maisano, J.Kozic, G.Talevski, D.Natkovic, L.Slater, N.Caldwell.

GEORGIES: M.John, I.Erdogan, A.Gauci-Seddon, C.Azzopardi, J.Cvetanovski, M.Gasparis, T.Waterson, D.Delic, E.Muscat, B.Gilmour, I.Filipovic, C.Platt, S.Kovecevic, T.Neceski.

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Knights	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Magic	4	3	1	0	9	6	10
Cannons	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
South	4	3	0	1	5	4	9
Kingston	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Pines	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Royals	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Bergers	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Zebras*	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Eagles	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Gully	4	0	2	2	3	5	2
Lions	4	0	1	3	5	10	1
Blues*	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

ROUND FIVE FIXTURES

KINGSTON CITY V BULLEEN ZEBRAS

The Grange Reserve, Oakleigh Mel: 79 F8 Friday 10th March KO 8.15pm

ESSENDON ROYALS V SOUTH MELBOURNE

Veneto Social Club, Bulleen Mel: 32 D9 Friday 10th March KO 8.15pm

PRESTON LIONS V OAKLEIGH CANNONS

BT Connor Reserve, Preston Mel: 18 B2 Saturday 11th March KO 5pm

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA V FRANKSTON PINES

CB Smith Reserve, Fawkner Mel: 17 J2 Sunday 12th March KO 5pm

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V RICHMOND EAGLES

Knights Stadium, Sunshine Mel: 27 A6 Sunday 12th March KO 5pm

SUNSHINE GEORGIES V RICHMOND EAGLES

Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine Mel: 26 G12 Sunday 12th March KO 5pm

HEIDELBERG UNITED V GREEN GULLY

Olympic Village, Heidelberg West Mel: 19 D11 Sunday 12th March KO 6pm



FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA 0 - OAKLEIGH 2



Fawkner/Whittlesea came into this round three clash against the unbeaten Cannons having lost their first two fixtures and well and truly entrenched at the bottom of the ladder.

The Blues' poor start to the season continued as the Cannons took all three points, which gave them a two point lead at the top of the Vodafone Cup. Goals from influential player Anthony Pelikan and pacy striker Esala Masi took the visitors top of the table after three rounds and with the likes of Raj Kumar, Juan Nilo, and Thomas Vulivuli on the bench there is plenty of depth in the Oakleigh side that must surely be the envy of all the other sides in the league.

Apart from a couple of half chances for the home side early in the game the opening 25 minutes were dominated by Oakleigh midfielders Bill Damianos and Pelikan, which caused constant problems for the Blues' defence. Penetrating runs inside the Fawkner penalty box took their toll and producing dangerous free kicks.

It would be only a matter of time before their pressure would get to Fawkner and

on the hour mark Oakleigh got the goal they deserved when a shot from the edge of the box after a goalmouth scramble lead to Anthony Pelikan scoring with rasping drive.

For all their effort Fawkner really struggled to gain any ascendancy and the game turned very scrappy for the majority of the second half. At least half a dozen players made it into the referee's book.

As the half moved towards its conclusion the only time either side looked dangerous was when they managed to get into wide positions, but unfortunately this was on too few occasions for the viewing public. The second goal came after the substitution of striker Peter Kakos. As the ball was floated over towards sub Thomas Vulivuli, his first touch was into the path of the oncoming Esala Masi who tapped the ball past the hapless Blues keeper and sealed a well deserved victory that saw the Cannons go top by two clear points.

By Paul Jefferies



Action from last Monday's clash between Fawkner/Whittlesea and Oakleigh Cannons
Photos by Daniel Flis



VODAFONE CUP

Round 4



MASI CRACKER SAVES CANNON'S BLUSHES



BIG CROWD WATCHES SUBURBAN DERBY STALEMATE

Oakleigh Cannons 2 - Kingston City 2

Friday night's highly anticipated blockbuster in the battle of the South East, saw the Oakleigh Cannons and Kingston City SC arguably produce the most entertaining match of the 2006 Vodafone Cup. The four goal thriller could have seen either side claim the spoils, however deep into stoppage time an Esala Masi scorching drive from almost thirty metres, beat the seemingly invincible Michael Turnbull and earned the home side a 2-2 draw.

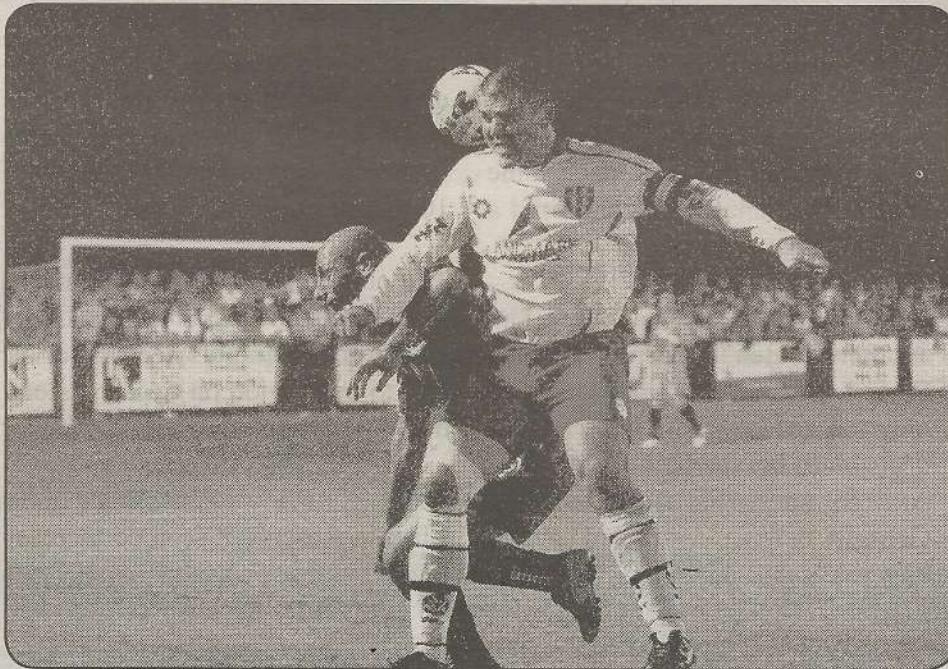
In front of approximately 3,000 spectators, both sides looked nervous and took their time to settle in. Raj Kumar deputised for the injured Steve Laurie at the heart of the Cannons defence, whilst Marcus Stergiopoulos regained his place in the Kingston midfield after Dimitri Tsaris will undergo minor knee surgery for an injury picked up in last weeks win over South.

It took 15 minutes for the opener and it was George Goutzioulis's sheer determination surrounded by two Reds defenders on the by-line, to cut back and find Peter Kakos who had the simplest of finishes to beat Turnbull.

The goal sparked both sides into action and the game lifted a gear with the Reds starting to begin their assault on the Cannons goals. A glaring miss from Michael



Curcija in the 26th minute was forgiven minutes later when his tricky foot work enabled him to round Felix Rosman and then clinically finish past Stuart Webster



allowing the away supporters to find their voice.

Immediately from the restart, Kakos could have given the advantage back to the home side, following a blunder from Con Anthopoulos which allowed him through on goals with only Turnbull to beat, however he found this seasons most in form keeper impregnable and struck it straight at him. The match was being played at a pulsating pace and kept the spectators on edge. On the stroke half-time, Curcija did what he does best and nailed a second from an acute angle which gave his side a 2-1 advantage at the break and illustrated why he is widely regarded as the leagues top striker.

Stuart Munro's men came out with a point to prove in the second half and could have found themselves level had it not been for another heroic display from Turnbull. With several A-League clubs linked to the former Marconi player, he produced a man of the match performance showcasing his shot stopping ability. His finger tip save denied set piece specialist Bill Damianos, who struck a viciously curling free kick towards the top corner. Turnbull then denied the tireless Masi from point blank range, who had all but scored and then Turnbull acrobatically was able to

somehow get a hand to it and keep the visitors in the driver's seat.

With the Cannons pressing forward they began to look susceptible at the back, which almost proved to be their undoing, as Spiteri, Curcija and Di Iorio continued to link up well.

Several changes were made by the Cannons to get more run from their forwards and substitute Cameron Pino who was benched for disciplinary reasons, had another wonderful strike denied by Turnbull. With the match seemingly out of reach for the Cannons, the Reds showed a moment of complacency and the new boys were punished four minutes into stoppage time. Masi found space, dinked the ball of Konstans and then rifled a scorching effort from thirty metres, to share the points and send the home supporters into delirium.

A draw was the fairest result and suits both sides, as it cements the Cannons in first position as they continue on their unbeaten run, whilst the Reds gained a point from a place where most clubs will struggle to take anything.

By Chris Priftis

Stuart Munro
Coach, Oakleigh:

"It was a very entertaining and exciting game for the public. We didn't start particularly well and I felt we were a bit nervous. Although we got the first goal, we didn't play that well in the first half and ended up going into the break 2-2 down. I thought we controlled the second-half and had 3 or 4 very good chances, but their keeper had an absolute blinder of a night. We managed to get the equaliser in stoppage time...which I felt we deserved."

George Katsakis
Coach, Kingston City:

"We were so close to pulling it off against the top team of the league... even though we drew, it kind feels like a loss. The match totally lived up to all the expectations of a local derby. It was end to end stuff, four goals, some great tackles, desperation to win and a lot of intensity. It was probably one of the best games I've seen at Premier League level for a long time. The experience of most of the players really showed in the match...it was evident as some really attractive football was played by both sides."



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Monday 27 February

vodafone

VODAFONE CUP

Round 4



IMPRESSIVE KNIGHTS TAKE HONOURS YET AGAIN



INCONSISTENT GEORGIES FALL ASLEEP IN DEFENCE

Sunshine Georgies 0 - Melbourne Knights 2

TWO early lapses of concentration in each half saw Sunshine George Cross concede all three points against Melbourne Knights on Sunday.

The Knights scored in the first minute of the match and the second minute of the second half to set up a 2-0 win and extend its unbeaten record in the Vodafone Cup to four matches.

The Georgies came into the match with superb home form on its side, but were caught on the hop with less than a minute gone in the match in the Knights' first attacking move.

Nathan Caldwell continued his brilliant season in front of goal, latching onto a cross from deep on the flank to nod the ball past Sunshine keeper Martin John from close range.

The game continued at a blinding pace as the Georgies tried to make up for the early mistake, but the longer the half progressed, the more it looked like Melbourne would dou-

ble its advantage.

Toward the end of the half Sunshine was saved by the offside flag when Luke Slater found some space at the edge of the penalty area and fired a low shot past John.

Five minutes later Melbourne had another golden opportunity when Dario Matkovic strode forward with only the goalkeeper to beat, but his decision to lay the ball off for Marco Maisano proved fruitless as the Georgies defence scrambled back in time to clear.

Sunshine was outplayed in the first half but the opening minute goal was the only thing separating the sides at the main break in a game which promised more goals.

At the start of the second period the Georgies were again caught napping, and Goran Talevski made no mistake with a blasted shot that gave John little chance to keep the ball out of the back of the net.

Sunshine coach Chris Taylor looked

for a way to break the visitors' momentum by replacing Tony Necessi and Johhny Cvetanowski with Trent Rixon and Davor Filipovic less than 10 minutes into the second half.

The new forward combination created some chances for the Georgies, forcing Knights keeper Adrian Cagalj into action on two occasions midway through the half.

But as the shadows descended upon Chaplin Reserve it seemed increasingly evident Sunshine would not find the score sheet.

To their credit, the Georgies continued to look for a goal and spent much of the second half looking for a way through Melbourne's defence.

But as it has proved throughout the season so far, the Knights back four stood firm and kept a clean sheet in yet another polished performance.

By James Taylor

Chris Taylor
Coach, Sunshine:

I thought conceding a goal within a minute really knocked us back pretty badly...but, in all honesty, they were the side of the day. The Knights showed a lot more commitment, endeavour...they're a good side and they'll up there this year. We conceded goals at crucial times and unfortunately we're repeating the same mistakes as last year.

Jo Biskic
Coach, Knights:

We played some really good stuff and I have to give credit to my boys because they stuck at it from the first minute until the last. We created lots of chances and I was happy we scored two great goals. Overall, our performance was one of our better ones for the year and I'm happy we didn't concede any goals here today either. I can't ask for more anyway.





VODAFONE CUP

Round 4

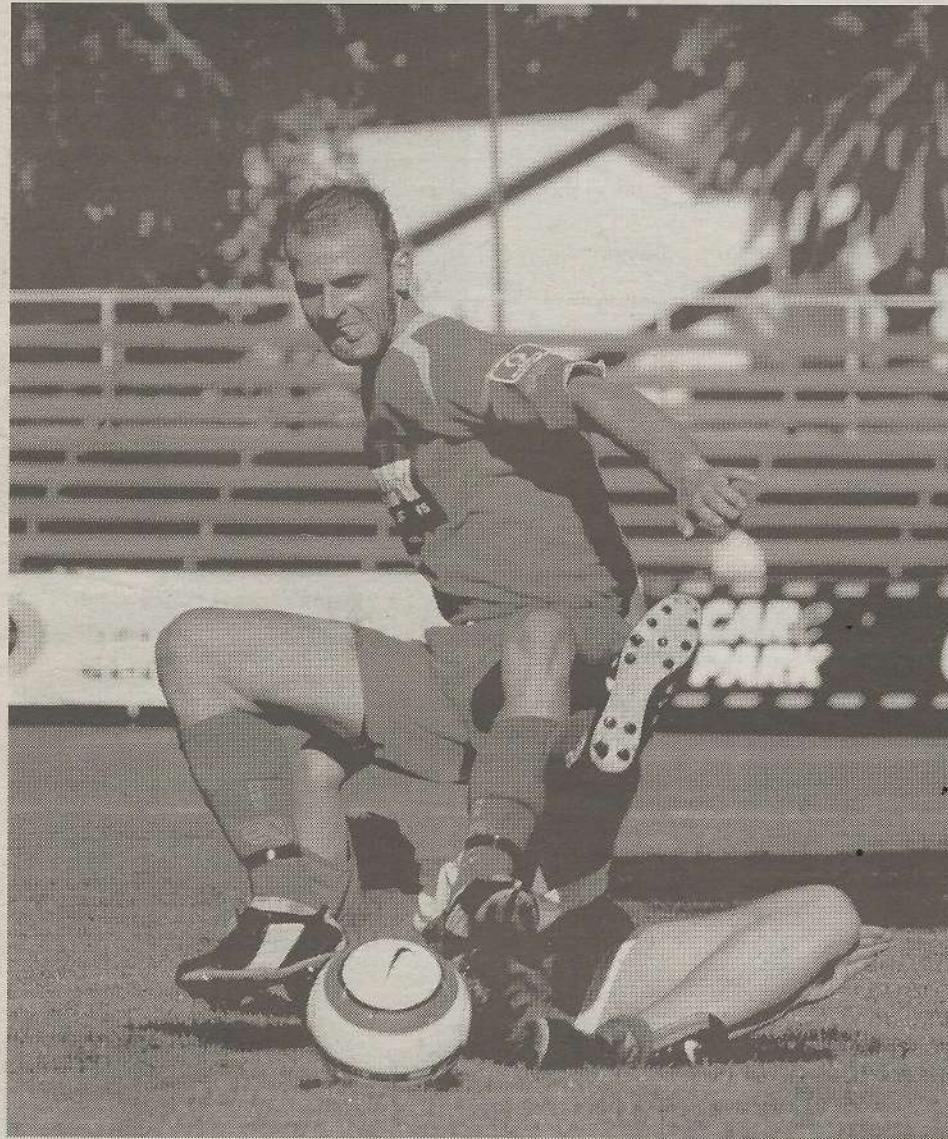


SOUTH LEAVE IT LATE ONCE AGAIN



LEAVING PRESTON WITH NOTHING FOR THEIR TROUBLES

South Melbourne 2 - Preston Lions 1



South Melbourne's young striker Gianni De Nittis struck a 20 metre winner in the 98th minute to give his team a 2-1 victory against a young Preston Lions at Bob Jané stadium today in round four of the Vodafone Cup.

Both teams began the match missing key defenders. Preston brought in Haris Vrobac to replace the suspended Les Anastasiou. South Melbourne were without the injured Con Blatsis. Up front Preston played debutant John Majaroski alongside Serkan Oksuz. South gave youngster Gianni De Nittis a start alongside Kevin Nelson.

Both sides began the game at a measured pace, content to move the ball around in patient buildups. The heavy conditions under-

foot also slowed the pace.

For Preston, Anthony Magnacca orchestrated many of their attacking moves in the first half making intelligent runs off the ball and proving elusive on it. Pece Siveski became more influential as the game progressed providing excellent link play in the middle.

For South, Fernando De Moraes continued his good form of recent weeks proving a thorn down Preston's right flank.

Preston opened the scoring just before half time when skipper Zia Younan found Siveski in space on the right. His far post cross lured keeper Dean Anastasiadis off his line, cleared the keeper and the Preston forwards only to rebound off the head of an unsuspecting Jonas Salley before lobbing into the net.

South Melbourne introduced winger Vasilios Natsoulis early in the second half in a bid to inject pace down the right flank. Their equalizer came in the 62nd minute down the opposite flank when George Tzirtis collected a De Moraes through ball and went past Preston's Vrobac only for the defender to concede a penalty. De Moraes made no mistake from the spot kick.

South centre back Arthur Tsonis had an excellent opportunity to head home from point blank range, when a De Moraes free kick found him unattended inside the six yard box. However, his soft header fell into the arms of Preston keeper Goce Gruevski.

As the final whistle loomed, and with both sides continuing to attack each other, Scot MacNicol picked up the ball in midfield for South and delivered an accurate pass to Tansel Baser in the box. With his back to goal, Baser set up the ball for De Nittis whose shot from outside the box gave keeper Gruevski little chance.

Preston were unlucky not to come away with a share of the points having had a fair share of the ball. The result leaves both teams at opposite ends of the table when their performances today suggest the gap between them should be less.

By George Stogiannou

John Anastasiadis
Coach, South Melbourne:

I thought we controlled most of the game. We tried to chase and keep up the pressure as much as we could...we managed to score in the dying minutes of the game...but the game is all about ninety minutes and the boys showed true character to come back from one nil down.

Vlado Vanis
Coach, Preston:

It was a good and open game from both sides. I think we deserved more than what we got...we're going home with nothing now...but I think we were good for at least a point. On the positive side our positioning was better than previous weeks... South appeared a bit hungrier than us and full credit to them.



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VODAFONE CUP

Round 4



BERGERS FIND PINES PRICKLY



A GAME OF TWO HALVES AT MONTEREY RESERVE

Frankston Pines 2 - Heidelberg Utd 2

Heidelberg has escaped from Monterey Reserve with a point after the scores finished 2-2 in round four of the Vodafone Cup.

The opening exchange in this match at Monterey Reserve produced an attack on the Heidelberg goal, which proved to be almost the only action the 'Bergers keeper saw in the first half. The Pines' Nick Waite took the ball into the corner and back heeled the ball to Tony Naglieri who crossed into the centre only to be denied by the larger number of Heidelberg defenders.

The match then settled into a Heidelberg dominated first half although they only led 1-0 after the first period.

The second half started slow and saw the Pines grow in confidence as the 'Bergers seemed to become complacent and the game deteriorated with a constant stop start affair. There were injuries and delays for treatment of players, which saw little action for the viewing public.

It wasn't until a solo effort from Tony Naglieri that the game came alight, when he went around two Heidelberg defenders and superbly shot past the diving keeper. Frankston were waiting for the breaks to come and they took the lead from a pe-

was theirs in a remarkable comeback but Heidelberg picked themselves up and the point was saved in the last minute as substitute Fidell Richards ran through the advancing defenders to slot the ball into the back of the net, this was the last kick off the game as the centre was taken the final

whistle blew and on came a flare from behind the goal as the players were walking off. A few more flares were let off in the crowd, which was good natured.

After the match Frankston Captain Cameron Leopold, said, "Our first half performance was the worst half of play, since I started at the club, eight years ago." He went on to say, "Our biggest attribute is that we are willing to play with each other and I'm proud of the way we met the challenge and pulled it back."

By Tony Pimlott



riod of pressure when Andreas Olivera received a cut back pass from the advancing Pines to shoot into the top right hand corner in the 87th minute.

The Pines must have thought that victory

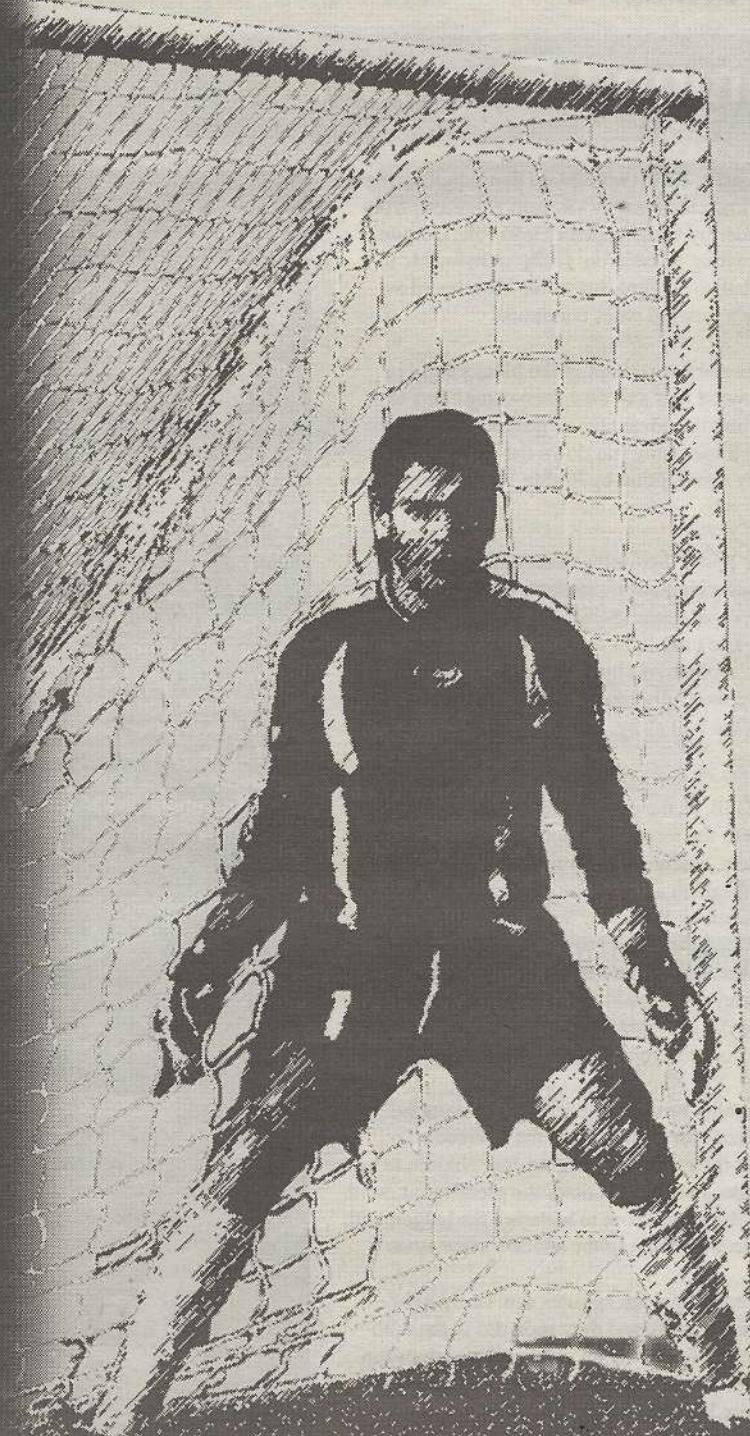
Craig Lewis
Coach, Frankston Pines :

To be honest, we probably should have been 6-0 down at half-time. Our effort was pretty poor in the first-half. Our commitment and discipline seemed to have deserted us...and that's what we normally pride ourselves on. We went back to the drawing board at half-time and I felt we came out and dominated the game in the second-half...they didn't equalise until the last kick of the game. At the end of the day we got a point, but to be fair to Heidelberg, they should have buried the game well before then.

Phil Stubbins
Coach, Heidelberg Utd:
In the first forty five minutes we possibly played as good as we could have played. In terms of dominating the game and creating opportunities to score, we realistically could have been five or six clear by the break. In the second half we were an absolute disgrace. Some of our character was questionable in the second-half. It wasn't acceptable and not good enough. If we can't put a team to the sword after dominating so comprehensively leads me to believe that there's something wrong with us mentally.... a good strike force would have had a least six or seven goals after the amount of chances we've created over these first four games.



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VODAFONE CUP

Round 4



GULLY AND EAGLES END ALL SQUARE



NO RELIEF FOR CHAMPS

Green Gully 1 - Richmond Eagles 1



Richmond Eagles were held to a one all draw by reigning premiers Green Gully, in an exciting encounter at Green Gully Reserve in Round 4 of the Vodafone Cup.

A brilliant solo effort by Eagles attacker Daniel Visevic handed the Eagles the early lead in the 14th minute, as Richmond were able to withstand a rampant Gully side for much of the contest before a late equalizer by debutant Matthew Sanders undid the newly promoted side's hard work.

As the contest commenced, Gully seemed the more potent side as they searched for the goal which would send them on their way to their first victory of the season. Roddy Vargas came close to opening the scoring soon into the contest when in the 2nd minute, he latched on to a cross by Lubo Lapsansky but the Eagles young custodian was up to the task as he denied last years media player of the year.

Crossley again kept his side on even terms soon

after when Dean Fak found burly defender Zoran Markovski at the back post, but again Australian youth international denied the reigning premiers from taking the lead..

The Eagles struggled early to find their feet early, but they soon worked themselves into the contest as former Heidelberg player Brendan Beni was a menace on the right. In the 14th minute the Eagles earned the early advantage thanks to a great solo effort by Daniel Visevic. The youngster dribbled past central defenders Dragi Nastevski and Markovski before unleashing a fearsome strike that flew past a stunned Pasi Schwalger.

Green Gully's aging defense struggled to hold the Eagles at bay as Graham Hockless dominated in the middle of the park. However, Gully soon wrestled back the ascendancy and were unlucky to take the lead as a shot by Joel Nikolic forced an outstanding save again by the Eagles 'keeper Crossley.

Soon after, Gully were again denied following a goal-line clearance by Graham Hockless, from a header by Gully captain Dean Fak. Despite dominating possession, Gully were unable to translate the supremacy to the scoreboard as Gully's forward woes continued.

Richmond jumped out of the blocks early in the second half and they soon came close to doubling the advantage as goal-scorer Visevic made a menacing run down the right, before a timely interception by Roddy Vargas denied the away side.

Gully found themselves under siege as Beni headed wide before moments later, he again came close as an 18 yard strike cannoned off the post. The onslaught continued as on the hour mark, piledriver by defender Steve Burton forced the Gully custodian, Pasi Schwalger to parry the ball away.

However, the Eagles onslaught soon drew to a standstill, as the experience of the Gully side came to the forefront. Young substitute Matthew Sanders, a new recruit from Tasmania, played a useful cameo appearance and was damaging off the bench as a cross by Vargas found the youngster at the back post but he was unable to get over the ball and headed wide. Moments later, Crossley continued his outstanding 'keeping' display as a shot by Andy Vargas forced a reflex save from the youngster.

In the 68th minute, Sanders had seemingly equalized for Gully before the Referee's assistant intervened, adjudging Joel Nikolic to be off-side. This did not deter the premiers as Sanders again came close to squaring the ledger, with a deflection denying the attacker once again.

A frenetic final ten minutes saw Gully fight to restore parity and they soon did in the 85th minute as following an outstanding slalom run by Joel Nikolic, Sanders picked up the crumbs to score his first Vodafone Cup goal, in his first senior appearance. Richmond's early hard work seemed to prove futile as their challenge soon dissipated with the dismissal of substitute Noel Bahnsen for a bone crunching tackle on Gully's midfield general Lubo Lapsansky.

Richmond mounted a late challenge despite their numerical disadvantage with Steve Burton coming close for the away side. As a demonstration of the end of end nature of the contest, deep into injury time, Gully were soon awarded a free kick on the edge of the area but Lapsansky was only able to fire high as gully remain winless following four rounds.

By Simon Chiarelli

Andrew Marth
Coach, Green Gully:

I think it was definitely two points lost on our behalf. We totally dominated once again but we just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net..but I'm sure things will change. Our endeavour is there...the will to win is there...and the camaraderie is there..only thing lacking is the finishing.

Dean Hennessey
Coach, Richmond Eagles:

We had a great start playing against the wind....Gully weathered the storm...we scored a nice goal and I thought we were deservedly in the lead. We created some good chances and I was very proud of my boys to come here and give a good account of themselves. We'll get better as the season gets on.

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VODAFONE CUP

Round 4



NEW FACES AT OLD STAMPING GROUND AWAIT 'AZZURRI' DERBY



ZEBRAS KEEN TO BOUNCE BACK, BLUES STILL SEEKING TO OPEN ACCOUNT

Bulleen Zebras v Fawkner/Whittlesea

Tonight's Monday night game at Veneto Club will have some extra Italian spice as Bulleen Zebras host bottom of the table Fawkner/Whittlesea Blues in the 'Azzurri' derby.

The Zebras have had an indifferent start to 2006, with a great first up away win over Frankston, followed by a home draw against the reigning Champions, Green Gully Cavaliers and finally a disastrous 4-1 away loss to Heidelberg last week.

After last week's capitulation to the 'Bergers', Zebras' coach Michael Michalakopoulos will have the added luxury of selecting two former A-League players, Ricky Diaco (ex-Melbourne Victory) and Billy Celeski (Perth Glory). Both have been granted last minute clearances from their respective A-League clubs and according to Michalakopoulos, both will be in the Zebras' starting eleven.

Diaco, a former VPL player of the year and proven goal scorer in the State's top flight, will add an extra edge to the Zebras' attack. Whilst not to be outdone, Celeski a former 'Joey' will also complement the Zebra's squad, further strengthening the home side's midfield. But

unfortunately for the home side, Celeski is only on loan to Bulleen, and will resume with Perth once the second

Celeski is using the VPL as a source of fitness during the long off season in the A-league, hence further honing his skills in an attempt to gain Olyroo selection at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Whilst unfortunately for the visitors, they are yet to open their account for 2006, as injuries have played havoc on John Markovski's list. But on a positive note another former A-Leaguer, Carl Recchia also from the Melbourne Victory franchise, has also been cleared to play for the visitors, thus strengthening the injury plagued squad.

Another loss by the Blues will see their season go pear shaped, as their chances of making the top six will evaporate quickly with every round they fail to pick up points. Whilst for Bulleen, a win will cement them a position in the top six or thereabouts.

My tip, the Blues finally break their duck, earning themselves their first point of the season in a highly charged a 2-2 draw.

By Bruno Zovko



Bulleen celebrates during its draw against Green Gully in Round 2

A-League season kicks off mid-year. Sources close to the club say that

MONDAY MATCH STATS

Recent form HOME
Recent form AWAY

Zebras D-W-L-L
L-W-D-D

Cannons W-W-W-L
W-W-L-W

Next info is based on last 50 matches

	BZ	OC
Home win	36%	50%
Home draw	43%	29%
Home lost	21%	21%
Home goals	1.07 per match	1.71 per match
Away win	13%	47%
Away draw	33%	20%
Away lost	53%	33%
Away goals	0.67 per match	2.07 per match

Bulleen - Oakleigh - PAST MATCHES:
04-07-2005 VPL Bulleen Oakleigh 1 - 1
18-03-2005 VPL Oakleigh Bulleen 0 - 0

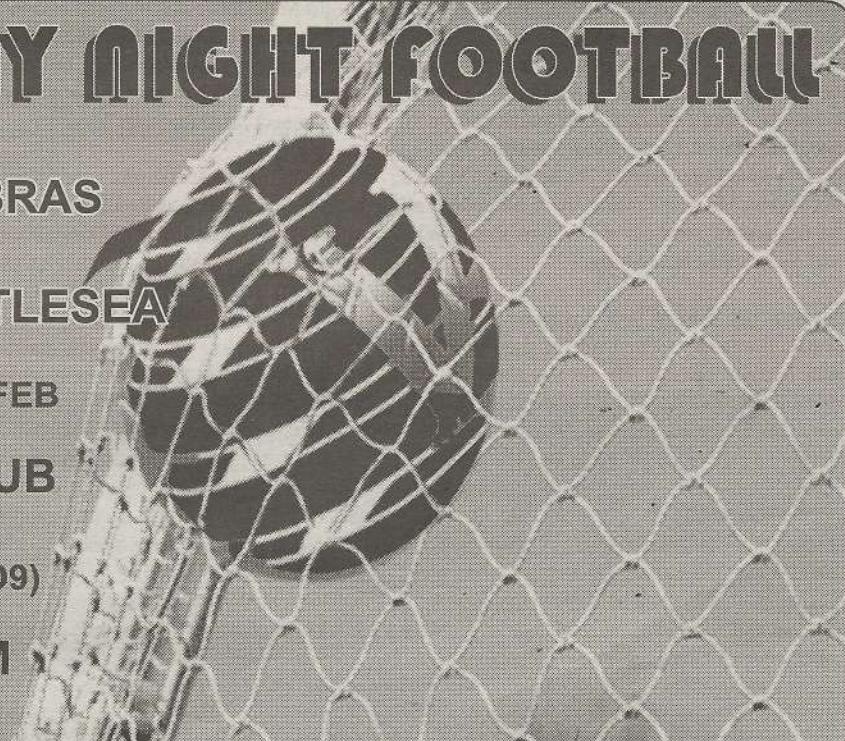
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Michael Michalakopoulos

Coach, Bulleen Zebras:

It's a very important game for us. We need to bounce back after such a disappointing effort in the last round. We've got a lot to prove and will be out to make amends for the club and the supporters as last week was ordinary and just unacceptable to say the least. We need to get the three points and hopefully with the two quality signings during the week it should help us bounce back.

Tony Ciancer

Asst Coach, Fawkner Blues :

Things are pretty tough for us at the moment. We're still struggling with injuries and hopefully over the next two weeks some of our key players will be back. In the meantime we're obviously going to try and get a result against Bulleen and head into the break on a positive note. It's not going to be easy with a depleted side but we're looking forward to it and hopefully we can grab our first three points of the season.

SOUTH'S SAMBA STAR

Whether it be migrating from Sao Paolo, Brazil, to Victoria to play with South Melbourne, or traveling to China with the Victorian State representative side, or cycling from Kensington to train at Bob Jane stadium and then cycling back, Fernando DeMoraes knows what it means to travel long distances in pursuit of his goal of a successful career as a professional footballer.

As a young boy, his idol was Rai, (brother of Socrates) who played for Sao Paolo and later on with PSG in France, not to mention the Brazilian national team.

"He's unbelievable, for me he's a class player. All my life that's the player I wanted to be like because he's very good," says Fernando speaking in a quiet but expressive voice, with the songlike intonation of his native Portuguese.

Fernando's home is in the state of Sao Paolo in a small city called San Bernardo, better known as the heart of the Brazilian automobile industry than for its football exports.

San Bernardo's football team currently heads the third tier of the Sao Paolo state leagues. It was for this club that Fernando first played as a professional outdoor player in 2001 following a career as a professional futsal player, a form of the game he's been playing since the age of six.

Sao Paolo has a population of 40 million and 100 professional football clubs but most professional footballers have to struggle to make a living. Fernando explains that when he began as an outdoor professional in 2001, he trained twice daily and played on weekends. "There's not much money but that's what everyone does there. Go and train and hope to find some good team. But most of the players don't have much luck or managers or help. They don't have a chance."

Although clubs often provide meals and accommodation the level of pay for most professionals is hardly enough to build a future. One source quoting a Brazilian Football Confederation survey in 1999, reported that 85% of professional footballers in Brazil were earning just \$ 95 AU per month.

Fernando has seen many talented footballers forced to abandon the game and as he explains, "Most of the time, you see good players stop playing. 'Hey what happened to you?' I'd ask. 'Stop man, finished my career because there's not much money'. You can't survive with this money. You need to forget about soccer and find work," he adds.

A couple of factors conspired to bring Fernando to South Melbourne. Firstly, his sister and brother-in-law, who were living in Melbourne encouraged him to send a video tape of himself which found its way to South Melbourne and resulted in an invitation to trial with the club. Secondly, South Melbourne's participation in the 2000 World Club Championship, held in Brazil piqued his interest. As he says, "What's this Australian team doing there alongside all the big teams. And my sister was there. Why not? Something interesting."

Leaving his family and girlfriend behind in Brazil, Fernando signed on for the 2005 Premier League season. He recalls the first few training sessions coming as a shock to the system. "My first training here it was crazy. It was running, running and I thought, 'Oh my God! What's going on here?'. Before I became fit it was very hard."

Fernando spent hours outside of team training sessions, running on his own each morning, cycling from Kensington to Bob Jane stadium, training and then cycling back home. He also put in hours of gym work to build his strength.

After months spent working on his fitness and

waiting for his transfer papers to be finalised, he made his South Melbourne debut midway through the 2005 season against Green Gully. As he recalls it, "I think I was available to play one game before at Bob Jane, but Johnny (South coach John Anastasiadis), says, 'No, next game maybe'. And he put me in next game as a defensive midfielder. I say 'Oh my God! I've never played here before.' Because I play striker or attacking midfielder."

But he was thankful to just be getting a start even if not in his preferred position.

Inspirational is a word that seems apt for Fernando's approach to many things. He's determined to improve his English. From having no English when he arrived, he has quickly acquired the basics. Although he has attended basic English classes, he has learnt much through interacting with people at the club and at his job with the railways in North Melbourne. "That's the way I learn most of my English. People talking this and that. I just listen and talk with everyone. I'm not shy. Like, I'll talk wrong but I don't care. I want to keep studying, get perfect, talk normal."

very difficult. I always talk with my mother, father and girlfriend. I've got another sister there and my brother's there as well."

Fernando also believes coming to terms with the different style of football in Australia is also a challenge for someone from Brazil. He says, "It is completely different. Australian soccer. They look at the English soccer. Long balls, more headers, physical, tackling harder. When I come here, it's tackle here, tackle there, but not all the time."

Fernando's ability as a ball carrier and his willingness to take on opponents makes him a target. Coach Anastasiadis believes, "he gets battered a lot because of the way he plays the game." Fernando refuses to be intimidated by any rough treatment.

"If you want to play soccer, of course they're going to tackle you. If you hit me again and again, unless you break my leg, this only gives me more motivation," he says.

Heidelberg Utd and State coach, Phil Stubbins appreciates the qualities of Fernando and has selected him in the Victorian State squad to tour China.

Stubbins says, "I sort of penciled him in before I even named the squad."

Stubbins also used Fernando in the State team that played Melbourne Victory late last year in two practice matches. "He did very well for me especially in the game against Melbourne Victory at Olympic Park where he played high up the park on the left in a 4-5-1 system. He's a player that can open the door at any given time during the game. He's certainly very elusive and offers something different perhaps other players don't, to the game."

With most of the A-League clubs reviewing their player lists for the following season, and looking around the various state leagues for potential recruits, there's every possibility Fernando will appear on the radar of one of these clubs. The 26 year old certainly has the ambition to play at a higher level. As he says, "I think no-one wants to be in the Premier league for ever. It's a very big tournament which is getting better. This is my second season now and it's getting better, the level, the players are getting better. It's just that, I want to be more, I want to go A-League. I don't know, Europe. I don't know, whatever."

Coach Stubbins believes, "If he keeps putting the hard yards in, I think he's got a chance to maybe perhaps get a contract somewhere in the A-League for himself."

For South Melbourne coach Anastasiadis believes that in order for Fernando to progress to the next level, "he needs to become physically stronger and tougher and perhaps develop his heading skills."

With his talent and his quiet determination, it may be just a matter of time before Fernando gets to perform on a bigger stage.

For the time being Fernando is focused on helping South Melbourne win the Premier League title in 2006. He says he's very happy with the team. "We have a good atmosphere inside the change room. Always making some fun." Most of his team mates call him Nando with one notable exception. "Vaughn (skipper Vaughn Coveny) calls me Ronaldo. The first time I came to South, he called me Ronaldo and still he does. What can I do? I wish," he shrugs.

"Everyone is good with everyone. We don't have popstar. I think for me it's a perfect place to play and do my job. It's very nice."

By George Stogiannou



Fernando DeMoraes playing against Fawkner in Round 2
Photo by John Punshon

He adds, "Unfortunately we lost 1-0, but I think I did well. I felt very happy because South Melbourne is a big club and to wear that shirt is something unbelievable. I don't know, I can't explain... In Brazil they talk about 'Your second skin'. When I wear that shirt I feel like it's my second skin, yeah."

Supporters' expectations are always high around a club such as South Melbourne. Being a Brazilian footballer also brings its own hefty weight of expectations. South's hastily assembled young team developed into a competitive unit by season's end and finished a creditable third. Fernando's performances gradually grew in stature as his fitness improved and as he and his teammates adapted to each other. By season's end, coach Anastasiadis was playing him higher up the park and giving him more freedom to attack.

According to Anastasiadis, Fernando brings "Brazilian flair and a bit of fantasy to the team. He's a fellow who loves his football. Whatever he does, he does with a passion. He loves what he's doing and trains hard. He can score goals and deliver the killer pass. But he also does the negative things."

He brings a similar attitude to his football. He says, "I think the most important thing in soccer is the training, because you play like the way you train. All the big players, they're training and training and comes the game, they play easy. That's the way I work. I just want to keep doing my job, like train and get better. That's what I think. I'm never happy with my performance. I don't want to improve for you or because the crowd is gonna love me. I try to improve for me because I always want more in terms of getting better."

Brazilian imports are a rare species in Australian football. Adelaide United have striker Fernando Rech. Queensland Roar has a young Brazilian striker Reinaldo. Melbourne Victory coach Ernie Merrick is about to visit Brazil on a shopping expedition hoping to bring some talent back to Melbourne.

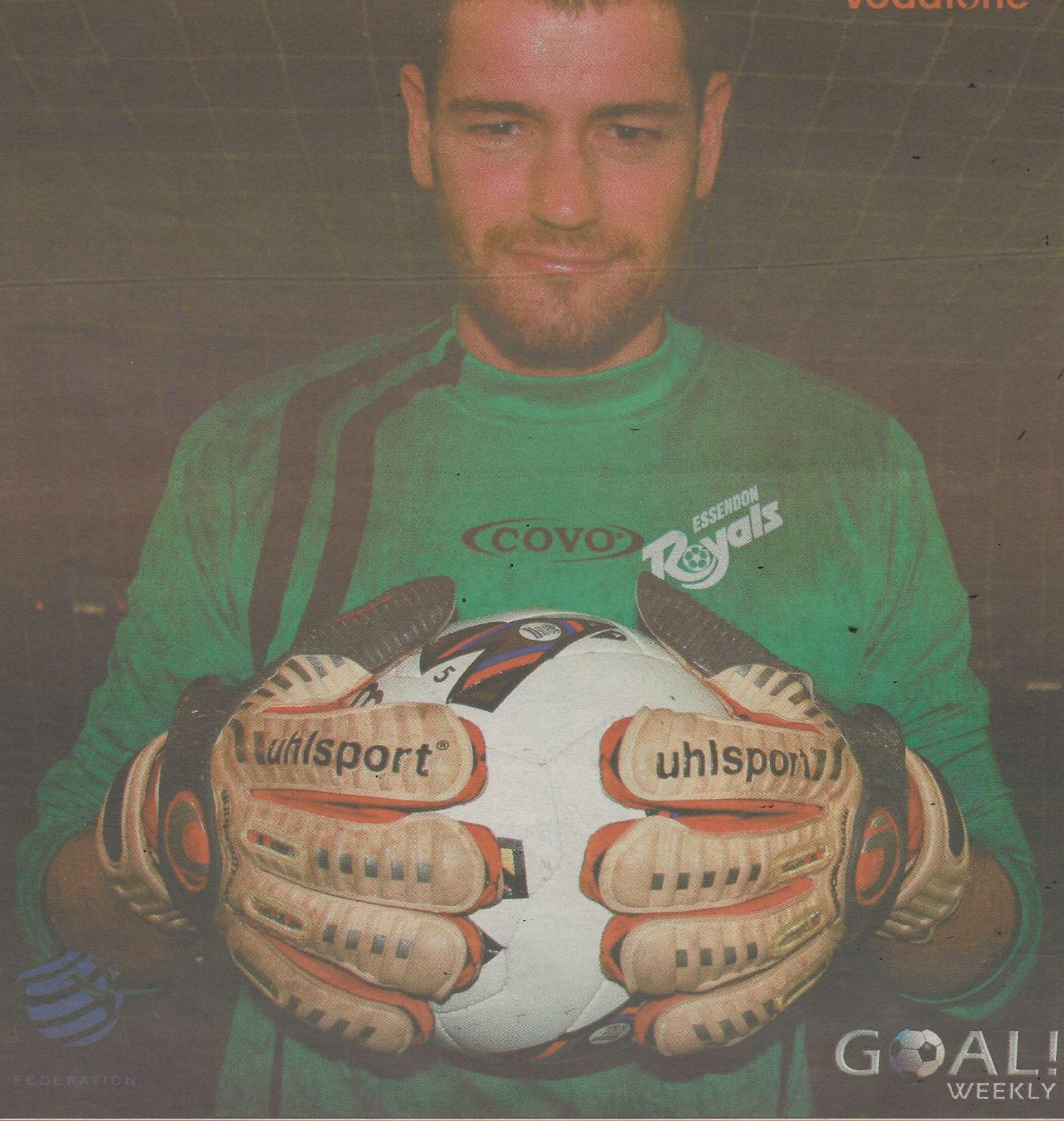
Fernando reflects on some of the difficulties such imports can expect when trying to adapt to a new culture. For Fernando, separation from his family and girlfriend is the hardest change to come to terms with. "For me it's a little bit easier because my sister lives here. But my girlfriend is still there. Everyday I call her. It's

JOEL DAVEY

ESSENDON ROYALS FC



vodafone



GOAL!
WEEKLY

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ARGEN



Top row: Juan

Coach: Jose Pekerman.

Key players: Hernan Crespo, Juan Roman Riquelme, Carlos Tevez.

World Cup record and best finish: 14th appearance; champion (1978, 1986).

Last appearance: First round 2002.

World Cup odds: 13-2.

How qualified: Second in South American qualifying.



NTINA

Deutschland Bound



Pablo Sorin, Roberto Abbondanzieri, Roberto Ayala, Fabricio Coloccini, Juan Román Riquelme and Gabriel Heinze.
Bottom row: Cristian González, Hernán Crespo, Javier Saviola, Luis González and Javier Mascherano.

GROUP C

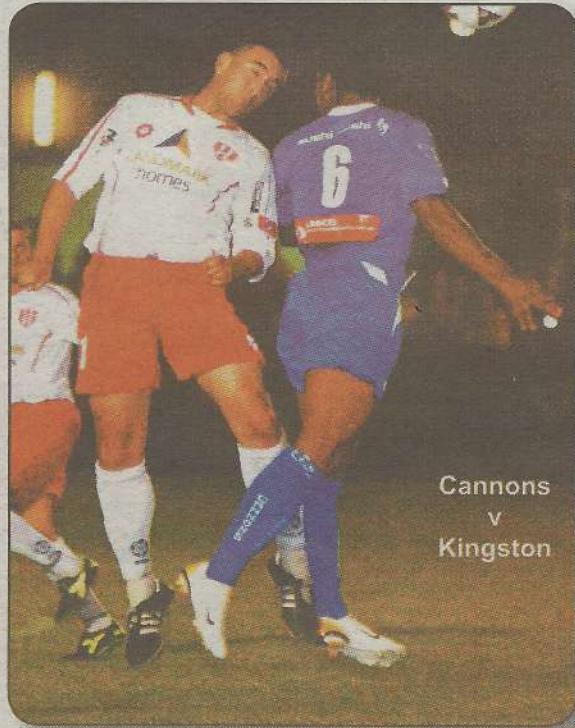
Argentina v Ivory Coast: Hamburg, Saturday 10 June 2006 KO 9pm

Argentina v Serbia and Montenegro: Gelsenkirchen, Friday 16th June 2006 KO 3pm

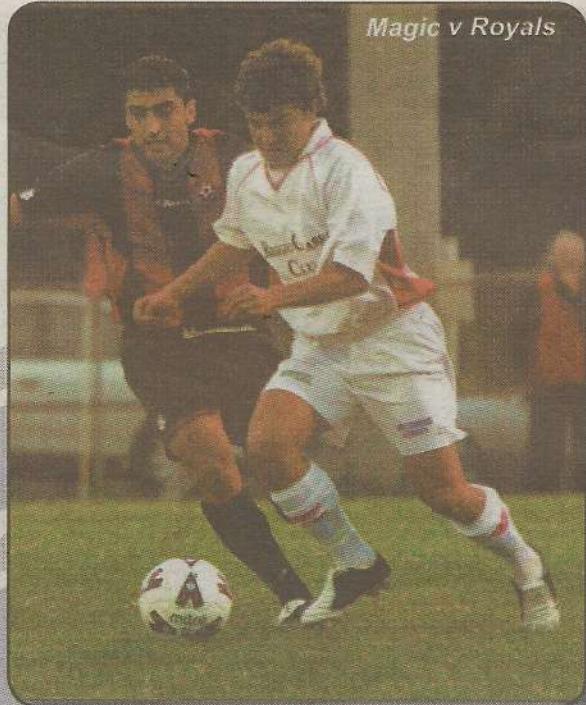
Holland v Argentina: Frankfurt, Wednesday 21st June 2006 KO 9pm

* KO in German Summer Time

GOAL!
WEEKLY



Cannons
v
Kingston



Magic v Royals



South v Lions



Pines v Bergers

**ACTION
PACKED
PICTURE
PAGE**

**VODAFONE
CUP**

**FEDERATION
VICTORIA**

ROUND 1

**Photos: Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis,
John Punshon and Steve Starek.**



South v lions



Pines v Bergers



Magic v Royals

FOOTBALL FOCUS...WITH JOEL DAVEY

Essendon Royals
Position: Goalkeeper
Age: 23

Nickname? Joely the Goalie

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the VPL?

Former Royal, Tony Celentano. He reminds me of a bulldog, and would probably keep going with two broken legs.

In the world?

Zinedine Zidane. I think he has the best first touch in the world.

Hardest team to keep a clean sheet against?

Preston. They just keep coming and coming. Never a defensive team always ready to pop shots at goal from anywhere.

Occupation?

Bank Manager. I have a Salon and Building Company with some partners. Why do you ask? Do you want a loan or a house built or both?

Craziest team mate of all time?

Nick Schwal. He does the craziest everything; from tackles (leg breakers) to goals (last season away against Heidelberg).

Most influential coach of all time?

Phil Peladarinos. He really knew how to get inside your head.

Most memorable match as a player?

Probably last season against Preston at home. I made a couple of blunders towards the end of the game.



As a fan?
Crewe Alexander against Crystal Palace in 2000. 50,000 fans watched lowly Crewe defeat Palace 5 – 0 after the Palace coach had claimed the game would be a waste of their time.

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran?
My grandmother's place.

Predict the following results:

Australia vs Japan – 1-1

Australia vs Brazil – 2-1

Australia vs Croatia – 0-1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup?
I think Brazil have another one left in them.

For the Hyundai A-League?

I'll talk about next season. Victory will make amends after a disappointing year.

Why did you become a goalkeeper?
I just can't play on the field. I've got a touch like an elephant.

Record number of juggles in single attempt?

At least 200!

Steak, chicken parma or seafood?
Seafood.

Chips, veggies or salad? Veggies.

Pizza or kebab?

Pizza, my name isn't Serdar Pir!

Favourite drink?

Iced Green tea.

Favourite nightspot?

Supper Club.

My next holiday destination is...

China.

Kitchen whiz or home handyman?

Handyman.

Any disasters to report?

Round 1 2006!

What's in the CD player right now?

Rahzell

Dream date? Megan Gale

First team mate you'd invite to a party?

Nathan Thomas because he would be there to the end or at least till the drinks run out.

On the end of season trip, the last

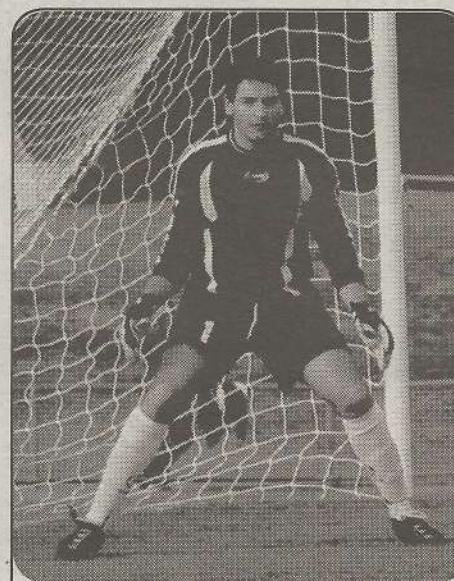
player to shout drinks will be... Me.

Match day superstitions or rituals?

None

Typical matchday meal?

4 pieces of toast with Nutella and a cup of tea.



Joel Davey guarding Essendon's goals against Heidelberg last season.

Favorite sporting team while growing up? The Mighty Ducks...They were real weren't they?

What are your strengths? My backline!

What are your weaknesses? Come on are you serious?

Ten pin bowling or skydiving? Ten pin.

Toughest opponent? Myself.

Select a player that you play most like? Shae Given

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game? Netherlands.

What is the last soccer shirt you bought? I bought a Liverpool shirt when I was 8.

With 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, how good are you?

I'd say a five, because I could always be better.

Childhood soccer idol?

Peter Schmeichel

Favorite former Socceroo?

Captain Wadey.

Favourite Current Socceroo, and why? Schwarzer for sure. That save in the penalty shootout was bananas.

What went wrong with Mark Bosnich? The white stuff.

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from? Any Given Sunday.

Did you watch Footballers Wives?
Come on are you serious! (Goal! Weekly takes that as a big yes).

Most hostile away crowd? Preston.

Complete this sentence. If I didn't play football I'd play... Basketball

What fictional character would you most like to be?

Inspector Gadget because I would never have to dive, just use my extendable arms.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie?

George Clooney, women love that guy!

By John Bonacci

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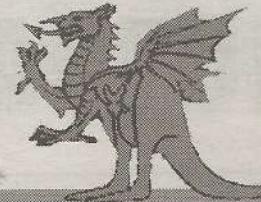
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Monday 27 February

suceroo

a pom's home view



It has been classic European Champions league this week! The encounters between the English and Spanish should have provided Sven-Goran Eriksson an opportunity to assess the centre backs best equipped to face the world's best strikers in the World Cup.

John Terry, captain of Chelsea, the team with the meanest defensive record, this week was pitted against Ronaldinho and Eto. And while Chelsea lost 2-1 to Barcelona, Terry himself provided an own goal. But it should be noted that Terry was covering two positions, since the left-back Del Horno had been red-carded, and Terry had cleared the ball off the line twice. As long as he remains fit, Terry has to be Sven's first choice centre back. He's strong, communicates very well, great in the air and will certainly captain the National team in the future. But who will partner him?

Sol Campbell should have been part of Arsenal's 1-0 victory over Real Madrid, but unfortunately he's not having a great time at present. Recently Campbell was at fault for two goals when The Gunners lost to West Ham. Then after his substitution at half-time, he walked out of Highbury... The forthcom-

ing jokes of "heading down the pub for a quick Sol Campbell" [quick half] were the least of Arsenal's worries. Manager Wenger stated he was concerned about Campbell's "mental shape". Campbell shrugged off suggestions of mental illness and certified himself as injured with 'bone bruising'. Unfortunately, Campbell's pace has gone, and unless he gets himself mentally as well as physically fit, he is unlikely to be part of



Sven's plans.

Manchester United's early exit from the Champion's League meant Rio Ferdinand was not in action. Ferdinand has not been on his best form following last year's long lay-off after his ban for failing to show up for

a drug test. He recently lined up alongside Wayne Rooney in midfield, as a holding midfield player. In the absence of a replacement for Roy Keane, he looked promising, providing cover for his central defenders and always looking to cut out the dangerous final ball. At this stage it seems unlikely that Sir Alex Ferguson is trying to help Sven solve his final World Cup selection dilemmas by reincarnating Ferdinand as the solution to a problem position.

Ledley King of Spurs is not in the Champions League, although they may qualify for next year. King is similar to Campbell in style of play with strength his major asset. Maybe the others are stronger in terms of international and European experience in central defensive positions, but King has been part of Sven's squad since Euro 2002. Although Sven has played him out of position as a holding midfielder, a position he's never played for his club.

Jonathan Woodgate, now with Real Madrid, is another England centre-back that is looking forward to adding to his England caps. The former Newcastle United defender started against Arsenal but unfortunately only lasted nine minutes as he suffered a ham-

string strain. Woodgate had an embarrassing start at Real Madrid in 2004 after a thigh injury delayed his debut for 17 months. He scored a spectacular own goal and was later sent off. However, his form has improved and will have to wait until he can make an impression on Sven, which may be too late.

Waiting in the wings is West Ham's Anton Ferdinand, Rio's 18-year-old younger brother. He has been a key figure for the high-flying Hammers this season and was voted Premiership player of the month for January. While he may be too young to feature in the England starting line up, being part of the England squad for the World Cup finals would be invaluable experience for the future. However, as England's post World Cup future is no longer Sven's concern he may also miss out.

It's going to be hard on anyone who gets left out and when you look at the players available England have depth and experience. A lot depends on the run up to the tournament. With Campbell mentally and physically in the wilderness, it will be more likely that (Rio) Ferdinand will partner Terry.

By Richard Sucksmith

UK FOOTBALL WRAP

BLUES IN DEATH THREATS OUT-RAGE

Written by: Florent Preynat

Chelsea have condemned the fans who posted death threats messages to referee Terje Hauge on the club's official website, and promised they would do all they can to find their authors.

Death threats to Norwegian ref Terje Hauge controversially appeared on Chelsea FC's official website, after some fans expressed their rage over the red card the official had shown Blues player Asier del Horno on Wednesday, against Barcelona in the Champions League.

But Chelsea were quick to act and condemn the threats, the London-based outfit reaffirming their desire to find the authors of such messages, and have them severely punished.

"If Chelsea are able to trace the authors, and if they are season-ticket holders or members, then action will be taken," said the club statement.

"Chelsea would like to stress that, at this stage, it is impossible to say whether the messages were posted by Chelsea fans as

the site is publicly accessible," it added.

CHELSEA, ARSENAL REVERSE MIDWEEK FORTUNES

Written by: Stephen Sharp

Chelsea recovered from their Champions League defeat to Barcelona by beating Portsmouth in the Premiership, while Arsenal followed up a shock win over Real Madrid with a loss at Blackburn.

Chelsea - Portsmouth 2-0



The Premiership leaders extended their cushion at the top to 15 points, but needed 65 minutes of play before taking the lead when Frank Lampard finished off some nifty play by Eidur Gudjohnsen.

Winger Arjen Robben capped off the win in the 77th minute by getting on the end of a nice throughball by Gudjohnsen and he put a comfortable finish beyond goalkeeper Dean Kiely.

Blackburn Rovers - Arsenal 1-0

Blackburn jumped to fifth place in the table with a win over the Gunners, Morten Gamst Pedersen providing the match's only goal early on.

Welsh striker Craig Bellamy did well to get space for a crossing pass against the Arsenal defense, and Pedersen was on hand to stow the ball into Jens Lehmann's net and Rovers did well the rest of the game to control the ball and deny Arsenal many good chances.

Newcastle United - Everton 2-0

Newcastle recorded yet another Premiership win for caretaker boss Glenn Roeder as they soundly beat Everton with two second-half goals by Nolberto Solano.

Solano got in close to Sander Westerveld's goal and tucked in a right-wing cross by

Charles N'Zogbia to give the Magpies the lead in the 64th minute, and he doubled the advantage with a stunning strike from distance 12 minutes later.

Birmingham City - Sunderland 1-0

It was badly needed for the Blues, but they got a huge win against bottom-side Sunderland on Saturday to help ease their relegation worries just a bit.

A free kick by Jermaine Pennant on 39 minutes met the head of a rising Emile Heskey and the former England international striker made no mistake in giving the Blues the lead.

Charlton Athletic - Aston Villa 0-0

It was a lackluster show at the Valley on Saturday as Charlton and Aston Villa failed to entertain much in a scoreless draw.

Darren Bent had a good chance to give the Addicks the lead in the first half, but was denied by Thomas Sørensen, and Thomas Myhre pushed a beautiful effort by James Milner wide of the post just before half-time hit.

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WORLD FOOTBALL

ARGENTINA CLAUSURA

Quilmes - Estudiantes LP 0 - 0
Racing - Independiente 0 - 2

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Estudiantes LP	6	3	3	0	11	6	12
2 Colon	6	3	3	0	7	4	12
3 Newell's	6	3	2	1	11	6	11
4 Velez	5	3	2	0	7	2	11
5 River Plate	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
6 Independiente	6	3	1	2	9	3	10
7 Gimnasia J	5	3	0	2	5	6	9
8 Arsenal Sarandi	5	2	2	1	5	2	8
9 Boca Juniors	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
10 Olimpo	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
11 San Lorenzo	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
12 Banfield	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
13 Lanus	5	2	1	2	4	5	7
14 Quilmes	6	2	1	3	4	6	7
15 Arg. Juniors	5	1	3	1	6	8	6
16 Gimnasia LP	5	1	2	2	3	4	5
17 Rosario	5	1	1	3	2	5	4
18 Tiro Federal	5	1	0	4	3	12	3
19 Racing	6	0	1	5	3	12	1
20 Instituto	5	0	1	4	2	13	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Ross County - Stranraer 1 - 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 St. Mirren	27	16	7	4	40	23	55
2 Ross County	27	14	8	5	40	28	50
3 St. Johnstone	27	13	9	5	44	24	48
4 Clyde	27	11	9	7	41	33	42
5 Hamilton	27	10	11	6	41	34	41
6 Dundee FC	26	8	13	5	36	32	37
7 Airdrie United	27	8	11	8	38	32	32
8 Stranraer	27	4	11	12	25	40	23
9 South	26	3	8	15	20	45	17
10 Brechin	27	1	8	18	19	53	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Alloa - Raith Rovers 1 - 1

Ayr United - Peterhead 1 - 2

Morton - Forfar 3 - 0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Gretna	24	19	4	1	65	19	61
2 Morton	27	16	5	6	46	25	53
3 Partick Thistle	25	12	7	6	43	40	43
4 Peterhead	27	12	5	10	39	37	41
5 Stirling Albion	24	11	4	9	41	38	37
6 Raith Rovers	26	9	5	12	34	41	32
7 Ayr United	27	6	9	12	37	48	27
8 Forfar	25	8	1	16	30	42	25
9 Dumbarton	24	7	3	14	30	36	24
10 Alloa	25	3	5	17	26	65	14

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Falkirk - Hibernian 1 - 5

Gretna - St. Mirren 1 - 0

Hamilton - Dundee FC 0 - 0

Hearts - Partick Thistle 2 - 1

SPAIN PRIMERAL LIGA

Zaragoza - Barcelona 0 - 2

Atletico - Malaga 5 - 0

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Juventus	26	21	4	1	53	17	67
2 Milan	26	18	3	5	58	24	57
3 Inter Milan	26	17	4	5	48	20	55
4 Fiorentina	27	16	5	6	46	29	53
5 Roma	26	15	6	5	49	25	51
6 Livorno	27	11	11	5	29	26	44
7 Chievo	26	10	9	7	33	28	39
8 Lazio	26	9	11	6	33	31	38
9 Sampdoria	26	10	7	9	42	35	37
10 Palermo	26	8	10	8	36	38	34
11 Ascoli	26	6	11	9	26	31	29
12 Siena	26	7	8	11	31	41	29
13 Reggina	27	7	7	13	27	44	28
14 Udinese	26	7	6	13	26	38	27
15 Parma	27	6	8	13	30	47	26
16 Messina	26	4	12	10	25	37	24
17 Cagliari	26	5	8	13	27	40	23
18 Empoli	26	6	4	16	27	46	22
19 Lecce	26	3	6	17	16	41	15
20 Treviso	26	2	8	16	15	39	14

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Excelsior M Zulte-Waregem 0 - 1
Racing Genk - La Louviere 1 - 0
G.B.A. - Cercle 0 - 0

Beveren - Lokeren 1 - 3

Sint-Truiden - Charleroi 1 - 1

Lierse SK Westerlo 2 - 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Anderlecht	24	14	7	3	51	22	49
2 Standard	23	14	4	5	41	21	46
3 Club Brugge	23	13	7	3	38	21	46
4 Zulte-Waregem	24	13	4	7	43	34	43
5 Racing Genk	24	11	7	6	38	29	40
6 Westerlo	24	10	5	9	32	29	35
7 AA Gent	23	10	5	8	30	27	35
8 Lokeren	24	9	8	7	35	34	35
9 FC Brussels	23	8	8	7	25	24	32
10 Charleroi	24	8	7	9	23	29	31
11 Roeselare	24	7	8	9	37	32	29
12 G.B.A.	24	8	5	11	31	37	29
13 Cercle	24	7	5	12	29	43	26
14 Excelsior M	24	7	3	14	31	36	24
15 Sint-Truiden	24	5	8	11	25	35	23
16 Lierse SK	24	5	7	12	16	38	22
17 Beveren	24	6	3	15	26	40	21
18 La Louviere	24	4	9	11	21	41	21

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dunfermline - Dundee United 1 - 1

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
1 Celtic	27	21	4	2	74</		

WORLD FOOTBALL

SPAIN:

BARCELONA BEAT ZARAGOZA, ATLETICO TOO STRONG FOR MALLA

Written by: Jonathan Roorda
Barcelona needed until late to break the deadlock against Zaragoza and secure their three points, while Atletico easily defeated last-placed Malaga.

Real Zaragoza - FC Barcelona 0-2

FC Barcelona were having difficulties finding the net at Zaragoza. The Blaugrana were helped however when Albert Celades committed a foul in Zaragoza's penalty area in the 78th minute.

Celades was sent off and playmaker Ronaldinho converted the following spotkick. Swedish striker Henrik Larsson scored a second goal three minutes later.

Atletico de Madrid - Malaga 5-0

Atletico de Madrid were far too strong for last-placed Malaga. Fernando Torres scored in the 6th and 10th minutes to give the hosts a quick secure lead, and Maxi Rodriguez netted a third in the 40th minute.

Juan Valera took care of Atletico's fourth goal in the 67th minute, and frustration led to a red card for Malaga's Duda in the 77th. Valera got another in stoppage time to set the score to 5-0.

ITALY:

FOIORENTINA BEAT PARMA, REGGINA DRAW WITH LIVORNO

Written by: Jonathan Roorda
Fiorentina needed to come from behind to beat Parma in the Italian Serie A, while while Reggina and Livorno held each other to a 1-1 draw.



Parma - Fiorentina 2-4

Parma had a great start with Fabio Enrico Simplicio opening the score from the penalty spot after only three minutes, and Mark Bresciano adding a second in the 19th.

Lyon - Rennes 1-4

John Utaka got Rennes off to a fast start by punching the back of the net in the 19th minute, and Yoann Gourcuff doubled the lead 12 minutes later, much to the surprise of the home crowd.

Lyon pulled a goal back from the penalty spot through Juninho in the 37th minute, but Utaka restored Rennes' two-goal lead in the 53rd minute. Utaka completed his hat-trick in the 72nd minute to cap off a dismal night for the home side.

Bordeaux - Metz 3-3

Bordeaux now are within six points of the leaders, but will rue the missed opportunity to get even close as bottom side Metz played one of their best games of the year.

Souleymane Youla put the visitors in front in the 15th minute, but Marouane Chamakh scored successive goals within two minutes and Bordeaux saw themselves in front 2-1.

This didn't phase Metz as one minute after Chamakh's second goal, Frédéric Roux

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But Fiorentina came back with goals from Valeri Bojinov in the 35th and 39th minutes, and Martin Jorgensen even put the visitors in the lead in the 48th. A fourth and final goal came from Luis Jimenez in the 68th minute.

Reggina - Livorno 1-1

Livorno broke the deadlock through Stefano Morrone in the first minute of the second half, but an equalizer came from Francesco Cozza in the 63rd.

FRANCE:

RENNES HAMMER LYON; BORDEAUX HELD BY BOTTOM SIDE

METZ

Written by: Stephen Sharp
Lyon suffered their second loss of the season in an emphatic way on Saturday as they were crushed at home by Rennes, but they only conceded one point of their lead as Bordeaux were held by cellar dwellers Metz.



Lyon - Rennes 1-4

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gifted Metz an own goal to level the match at 2-2, and Roy Contout sent the visitors to the break with a 3-2 lead in the 43rd minute.

Alejandro Alonso pulled the home side level at 3-3 with 20 minutes to play, but they couldn't muster up a winner and had Chamakh sent off in the 89th minute.

Auxerre - Toulouse 2-0

Danish international Thomas Kahlenberg scored twice as Auxerre jumped into third place in Ligue 1 on Saturday.

Kahlenberg put the home side in front with a goal in the 21st minute and doubled the lead midway through the second half to ensure the home side captured full points.

Nantes - Paris Saint-Germain 0-0

Nantes' French international goalkeeper Mickaël Landreau played magnificently as they held PSG to a scoreless draw.

Landreau made several nice stops on both sides of half-time and PSG striker Pauleta had a shot crash off the post on a frustrating day for him.

Le Mans - Saint-Etienne 0-1

Le Mans are still fifth in the table, but suffered a setback as they were brought down to Earth by visiting Saint-Etienne.

The lone goal of the match was scored by young Portuguese striker Hélder Postiga in the 57th minute as Saint-Etienne remain lodged in the middle of the standings.

Nancy - Sochaux 0-3

Sochaux appear to be safer from relegation as they moved 12 points clear of the bottom three with a three-goal win at Nancy.

Moumouni Dagano put the visitors in front 1-0 in the 16th minute, and an own goal by Cédric Lecluse just before half-time sent them to the dressing room up two.

After Brazilian striker Kim was sent off in the 80th minute, his countryman Araujo Ilan scored Sochaux's third goal with two minutes to play.

GERMANY:

WINS FOR BAYERN, WERDER AND SCHALKE

Written by: Jonathan Roorda
Bayern Munich defeated Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday to maintain their Bundesliga lead, while Werder Bremen and Schalke 04 had wins over Borussia Mönchengladbach and Nurnberg respectively.

Bayern Munich - Eintracht Frankfurt 5-2

League leaders Bayern Munich took the lead when Jose Paolo Guerrero scored in the 21st minute, but Christoph Preuss levelled in the 32nd.

But the Bavarians restored their lead through Michael Ballack only one minute later, and Guerrero got a second for 3-1 in the 42nd.

Ballack netted a second as well, in the 62nd minute. Alexander Meier scored one for Frankfurt in the 84th, but Claudio Pizarro set the score to 5-2 in the 85th.

Werder Bremen - Borussia M'gladbach 2-0

Werder Bremen broke the deadlock through national team striker Miroslav Klose in the 16th minute, and Ivan Klasnic added a second for security, just one minute later.

Schalke 04 - Nurnberg 2-0

Nurnberg went down to ten, when Ivica Banovic received a red card in the 36th minute. Kevin Kuranyi scored Schalke's opening goal in the 58th minute and the score was set to 2-0 by Lincoln seven minutes later.

Cologne - Bayer Leverkusen 0-3

Bayer Leverkusen needed until the 67th minute to break the deadlock at Cologne, with Dimitar Berbatov opening the score. Andrey Voronin got a second in the 70th minute, and Jacek Krzynowek netted a third in the 83rd. Cologne's Alpay Ozalan was expelled in the 77th minute.

VfL Wolfsburg - Hannover 96 2-1

Mike Hanke's opening goal for Wolfsburg in the 9th minute was cancelled out by Thomas Brdaric in the 17th, but the winning goal was scored by Juan Carlos Mensegez in the 86th minute.

Arminia Bielefeld - Borussia Dortmund 1-0

Arminia took the lead with a goal from Rudiger Kauf, just before the half time whistle, and Borussia were unable to use the second half for an equalizer.

Mainz 05 - Kaiserslautern 0-2

Kaiserslautern are slowly getting away from the relegation zone, at the expense of Mainz. Boubacar Sanogo converted a penalty in the 24th minute, and added another goal two minutes later.

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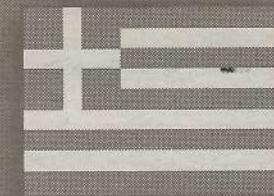
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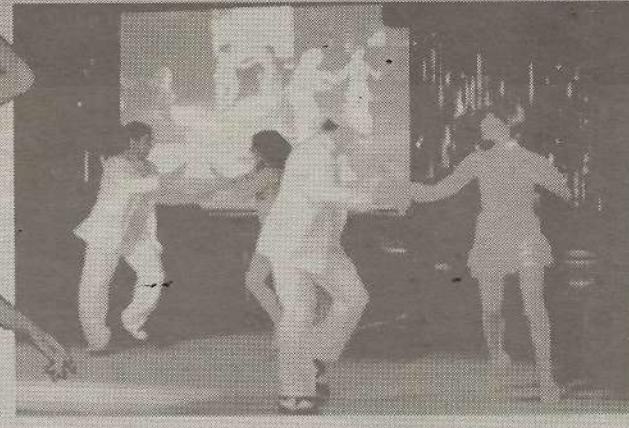
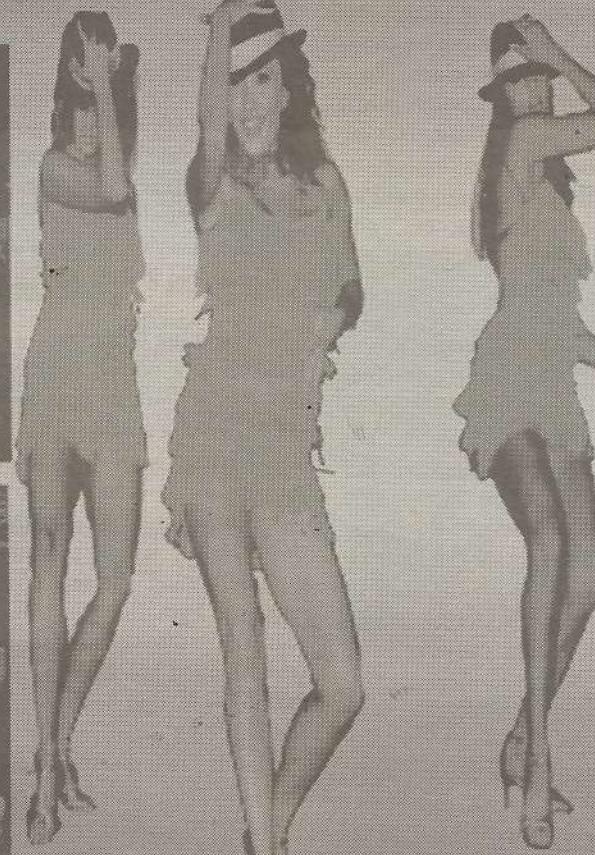
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Monday 27 February



WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Preview



BEFORE THE BIG KICK-OFF

New teams and new faces, both on and off the field, are the order of the day in the Vodafone Women's Premier League, which kicks off its season this coming weekend. Preston Lions and Sandringham join the throng of familiar clubs competing to break Box Hill Inter's stranglehold on the competition.

Having dominated the league in recent seasons, Box Hill Inter and Cranbourne Comets are sure to be once again the teams to beat. The sides have contested the last two Grand Finals and one or other of the teams has won the competition every year since 1998. However, despite Cranbourne having secured the minor premiership for the past two years, it has been Inter that has triumphed in the Grand Final, to reign as premier for three consecutive seasons.

There has been something of a changing of the guard in coaching circles, with no fewer than five of the twelve clubs handing selection duties to someone new. After two seasons of playing second fiddle to Inter and the Comets, Keilor Park will be hoping that their fourth coach in as many years can inspire them one step further and into a Grand Final. South Melbourne, with a change at the helm for the first time in five seasons, will be hoping for greater regularity in performance after several inconsistent years.

Brimbank and Eastern Lions both survived their inaugural WPL seasons, albeit with differing fortunes, and have also new personnel at the helm. Brimbank turned in a strong second half of the season to sneak into the finals at the last gasp, but may find the going a little tougher this season following a number of changes to its playing roster. By contrast, Eastern Lions had to battle to the

last to maintain its top-flight status, and will be hoping a change at the top will enable it to enjoy greater success this season.

Competing in the league for the first time is Sandringham, which joins the WPL after winning the State League One title in 2005. The club's youthful playing roster, which proved so successful in guiding it to the top-flight, will be looking to continue their rapid rise as they face the challenges of a new season. Joining Sandringham in promotion is Preston Lions, which also has appointed a new coach, and returns to the WPL after a year's hiatus. Its first season in the WPL in 2004 was awash with promise as it stormed the competition in the early rounds before fading dramatically to suffer an ignominious return to State League One. Having performed strongly in the lower league in 2005 to secure an immediate return to the top competition, it will be no doubt looking to produce a more consistent season than the first time around.

Having recruited aggressively over the course of the off-season, expectations for the new season will be high at Heidelberg United. It was another club that endured an inconsistent year in 2005, but it will no doubt be looking at finals football as the minimum achievement expected of this year. Having accomplished that for the past two seasons, only to fall at the first hurdle, Ashburton will be hoping that this year proves third time lucky as it seeks to push the established trio of Inter, Cranbourne and Keilor to the wire.

Having entered the competition for the first time last year, Bendigo Vipers enjoyed mixed fortunes over the course of the season. It ultimately only missed out on finals football by one place, but it was still seven points adrift of the team ahead. Having now adjusted to the league, it will be aiming to build on that relative success, and push for a spot in the top five.

The league is rounded out by Eltham North, which is now entering its fifth season in the competition, but has yet to secure a top-half finish. A battling team, more than capable of causing an upset on its day, it will be hoping that an infusion of new blood from its successful junior teams can provide the impetus to propel it further up the ladder.

Brimbank gets the new WPL season underway on Saturday afternoon at 1 pm, when



2005 Champions Box Hill Inter WSC

it welcomes Bendigo Vipers to the Italo-Australian Social Club. The sides, both newcomers to the league last year, shared similar fortunes during the season, finishing fifth and sixth respectively. Brimbank took the points in the corresponding fixture last season, edging out the Vipers by a single goal. It will, however, be mindful of the potential firepower Bendigo possesses, which was evident when the sides met in Round 7, resulting in a seven-goal victory to the country team, Brimbank's heaviest defeat of the campaign.

The defending premier, Box Hill Inter, also kicks off its season on Saturday, making the trip to Partington Flats to take on Eltham North at 3 pm. Although Eltham posed little threat to Inter over the course of the season last year, Box Hill will go into this game well aware of Eltham's capability to cause an upset, particularly on home soil. North was one of only two teams to take points off Inter last year, holding the champion to a 1-1 draw in Round 7.

The remaining four matches of the round all kick off at 1 pm on Sunday. One of these pits Keilor Park against Heidelberg United, in what is traditionally a fiery encounter. Premier league longevity and player movement between the two clubs over the years have created a healthy rivalry for these teams, which should translate into an entertaining spectacle for all watching at Keilor Park Reserve. Keilor has been a regular top three challenger in recent years, while United has high expectations for its 2006 season, and neither will want to start the year on a negative note. It was honours even in the two meetings between the sides last year, with each team triumphant in its home fixture.

Another match-up that has proved an entertaining and passionate one in recent seasons is that of South Melbourne and Ashburton. They meet at Bob Jane Stadium and if last season is any indication, it could prove a busy day for both goalkeepers. The two meetings between the sides last season produced an impressive thirteen goals, with South victorious in the first by five goals to three, and Ashburton taking the second 4-1.

This season's newcomers to the WPL, Preston Lions and Sandringham, have the opportunity to ease themselves a little more gently into the top flight, as they face each other in their opening match at BT Connor Reserve. Although Sandringham finished the season as State League One champion, and defeated Preston late in the campaign, BT Connor Reserve did not prove a happy hunting ground, as it suffered a one-goal defeat against a physically strong Preston side. Both sides will be keen to start the season on a positive note, and claim a morale-boosting victory, and both should be confident facing familiar opposition.

Eastern Lions faces a tough start to its second WPL campaign when it faces league stalwarts Cranbourne Comets at Gardiners Creek Reserve. Cranbourne proved too strong for the Lions on both occasions that they met last season, taking the points with 3-0 and 7-1 victories. Having survived its inaugural season in the WPL, Eastern Lions will be looking to consolidate its status and build some momentum, but it will have its work cut out against a Cranbourne side still smarting from its second successive Grand Final defeat.

By Niki Cook



Runners-up Cranbourne Comets were devastated by the loss against their long-time rivals

THE TASTE OF THAI
WITH THE SPICE OF
PORT MELBOURNE



Katsa's Korner with George Katsamboukas



The commodore certainly copped a battering this week, from Epping to Moorolbark, with quick pit stop to Jack's place in between.

Speaking of Jacks Place, the Oakleigh Canons v Kingston City Game certainly lived up to everyone's expectations- large crowd, plenty of goals and scoring opportunities.

The Cliff hanger finished with Esala Masi finding the net with a 40 metre strike in the 92nd Minute which took Turnbull, who made a number of class saves during the match, by surprise, giving the Canons a late

equaliser.

Stuart Munro and George Katsakis had their respective squads cherry ripe for the local derby, and both teams put on a disciplined performance. The arguments will continue for many weeks to come around the coffee shops in Oakleigh as to whether the result was a fair one.

A sore point of mine has been the Finals system for the Vodafone Cup.

Australia is one of few nations who has a Finals system, the rest of the world recognises, and rightly so, the team on top after the Home and Away Fixtures as the Champion.

The classic example of how unfair the Finals system is that of Port Melbourne a few years ago who only lost one home and away game, was sitting on top of the ladder at the end of the season by a country mile, only to lose both finals games! Perhaps a

return to the Champion being the team that finishes on top of the ladder after the home and away games have been played should be considered.

As a substitute for finals games, why not have an end of season Australian National Champion play off, where the Champions of Victoria, NSW, QLD and South Australia play off against one another?

Local fans can only watch local derby's so many times, and I'm sure that they would welcome watching the best of interstate teams playing against the Victorian Champion.

My phone ran hot after my "Money can't buy you Love" story from last week. It seems that some club officials believed that I targeted this story towards their Clubs.

Far from it Gentlemen, the piece was not based on any one club, perhaps some people have guilty a conscious?

The conclusion of the home and away series in the A-League has meant that the A-League Clubs have reviewed their Roster and a number of players have been released

from their Contracts.

Initially any player that played over 10 A-League games was ineligible to play in the Vodafone Cup, a Monday Night FFV meeting soon corrected this and it appears that a number of FFV Clubs have swooped to sign these de listed A League Players.

Diaco and Celesti to Bulleen, Fa Arodo and Fitzsimmons to the Royals, with more to come over the next few days I'm sure. What I am keen to find out are those that are still unannounced and I have heard some careless whispers that more transfers of A-League players to the VC will occur.

One lucky player found his way back to his homeland, courtesy of a VC Club who is keen to sign him, but the deal got caught up in red tape. The watchful eye of Katsa spotted him holding a return overseas ticket courtesy of his potential new club's home game last week.

And here I am writing that Money can't bring you love, this player is certainly feeling the Love!

Katsa – Over and Out!

Bayside Football League with Steve Gray

As some of you may already know there is a constitutional Reform Roadshow that highlights what the Football Federation Victoria is undergoing to comply with the Crawford Report recommendations. One of the recommendations is to gain the signature of current non-affiliated leagues including the Bayside League, Churches, Amateur League etc to become affiliated with the Football Federation Victoria.

The following is an excerpt from the Crawford Report. "Existing state soccer federations, associations and leagues, including those currently unaffiliated, undertake to amalgamate with Soccer Australia's recognised state member affiliate."

Now the question is does the Bayside Soccer League have to become affiliated with the state body FFV?

Some sources have mentioned that in recent reform meetings heavy handed tactics may be implemented in order to make sure leagues like the BSL do become affiliated.

Bayside League president Bart Harrold was recently attended the Constitutional Reform Roadshow to gain more of an insight into how it may affect our league and ideas in how the league may handle this process. Below is a Q&A with the league president on this hot topic.

Q. What was the Constitutional Reform Roadshow all about?

A. Peter Friend, the Chief of Staff from FFA outlined his expectations of what should happen in Victoria relative to various aspects of the Crawford

Report and how Reform needs to take place in all states (including Victoria). This is also in line with how the FFA itself has been reshaped and reconstituted. This is the next phase of the total overhaul of soccer constitutions and administrations in Australia.

Q. Is reform necessary in Victoria?

A. Very definitely. Leaving aside the Bayside



BSL: Boronia v Western Port

League, the Churches League and other non affiliated segments, the main body that controls soccer here, the FFV, is under constant criticism by its own members and affiliates for its undemocratic structure, its bureaucracy and its ever escalating costs. It has had encountered numerous negative issues for decades, so any reform in that area has to be good.

Q. Why was the Bayside League invited and does this whole Reform process have any relevance to our League?

A. One of the Crawford recommendations was that one state body should control, and in some way or represent soccer in that state. We are seen as a stakeholder here and therefore it is the FFV's intentions that all forms of soccer come under one banner in Victoria. Peter Friend mentioned that all parties would be involved with the reform process and the entire structure, voting rights etc. were still to be formulated, although a suggested structure was put up for view and this will appear on FFV's website shortly.

Q. Does this mean then that we must become affiliated with the new reformed FFV down the track?

A. No it is a recommendation only, but one got the distinct impression from Peter Friend that night and through feedback from our colleagues who attended other sessions over the prior week that they have ideas about how they can bring us to task if we did not adhere to their wishes. Some ideas that were thrown around over these meetings I believe were -

* Referees - no affiliated badge if you are not in the pile (Not an issue for us and has all been tried before on us - we have our own and will continue to develop these)

* Insurance - that we would not be allowed to participate in any scheme that the body have in place. (Again not an issue for us - seems like they do not remember that a prior 'dirty tricks' campaign by the previous VSF along the same grounds failed and we have our own Insurance Scheme in place and working, regardless)

* Councils - that councils may be lobbied so that

non-affiliated clubs could not play (our members are the ratepayers and this is a challenge we would love to take on any time - again it has been tried before and failed)

Q. Should we affiliate anyway as there are positives in doing so for us are there not?

A. Indeed there are good reasons and one body representing soccer across the state also makes good sense. We are not the ones however that need reform it must be remembered. But there are few aspects of this process that need to take place before we are remotely interested in joining I suggest.

1. Let the FFV reform itself first and make sure we are happy with that outcome.
2. We maintain our democratic system (all clubs decide the issues for our League)
3. We keep control of our cost structure
4. Any pressure tactics or a dictatorship approach on us and we pull the plug
5. For the value of our membership we need some credits from the new system
5. Our members vote on it
So, yes we are happy to talk at any time but we have no intention of giving away what is working well for us right now.

Q. So what is the summary of it all then?

A. All that the FFV, FFA and Crawford have come up with is recommendations, and these are beneficial for soccer overall.

Given the right circumstances as noted above we should consider being part of it, but at this stage I suggest very definitely not, and we should continue to develop our own League.

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BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

Ernie Merrick has left the country, off to Brazil to get a Brazilian. Victory should really have saved some money, you can get Brazilians in most suburbs from the signs I have noticed in Beauty Therapy shop windows.

Speaking of Victory, it ended its season with a 12-2 win over a team called Nerds FC in an exhibition match. Having turned the corner with a win over the Nerds, Victory should continue its confidence boosting by challenging the FFV Thirds League outfit Kew Deaf. I'd pay good money to see Kevin Muscat go through a deaf player and then stand over him and demand "get up! He's faking ref, I never touched him. Get up you...."

The success of the third string Australian team in the first Asian Cup qualifier makes one wonder if the Victorian State team could also have beaten Bahrain. It was also a great effort by the boys to actually play the match in light of the terrorist threats received in the area the day before the game. Following in the steps of 1960's

Socceroos who played in Vietnam at the height of the war there, the boys just got on with the job. Not like the cricket team who want to come home from Sri Lankan tours if they

ply popping some bubble wrap.

If the 1979 Buggles Case, in which Video Killed the Radio Star, occurred under FFV jurisdiction, would Video only have received a good behaviour bond?

Apparently some Liverpool fans attacked the ambulance taking Manchester United's Alan Smith to hospital after he broke his leg last week. I would have thought stealing his car from the car park would have been more stereotypically Scouse.

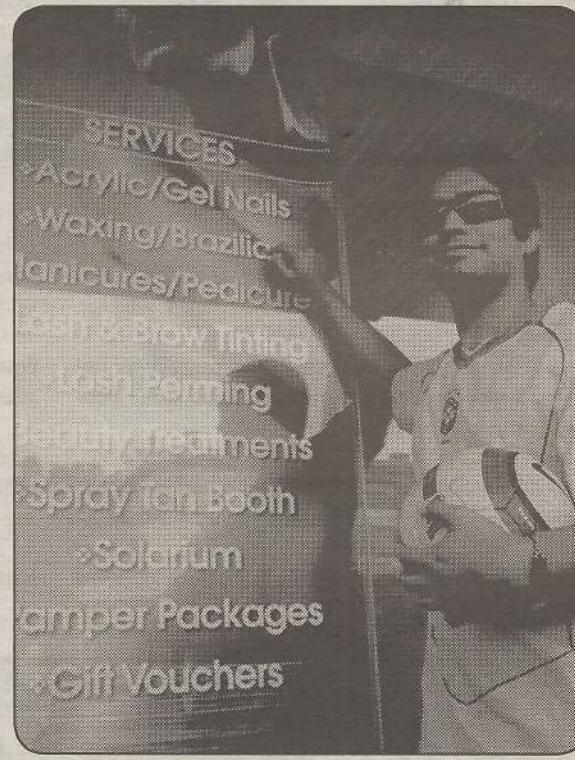
From Katsa's Corner last week: "I have also been bombarded with questions about who the two ladies are in the photo that accompanies my weekly article." At least you get a photo with two ladies accompanying your article. And I only sent a couple of dozen e-mails, I would hardly call that "bombarding".

Until the week after next,

Listen All Of Y'all It's A Sabotage.

Memo to Ernie: No need to fly to Rio for a cheap Brazilian

hear some Colombo kiddies letting off fire crackers in the street or sim-



ON THE AIRWAVES

The Sunday Roast Show
Casey radio 97.7FM
Sunday, 2-5pm

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with Paul Jefferies

The 90th Minute
SEN 1116
Sundays 5pm onwards

Featuring Michael Zappone and Paul Trimboli

Monday Night Football
96.5 Inner FM
Mondays 8pm

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with John Caniglia

This week: Bulleen v Fawkner/Whittlesea

QUICK QUIZ

- 1/ Who captained Australia to victory in its first ever Asia Cup tie against Bahrain last Thursday?
- 2/ The score finished 3-1 to Australia. Who scored the goals?
- 3/ True or False? The Bahrain coach resigned from his post immediately after the game.
- 4/ Apart from Bahrain which other nations has Australia drawn in its Asia Cup group?
- 5/ In 2004, Bulleen Zebra's new signing Ricky Diaco won the Victorian Player of the Year Award. Who was he playing with then?
- 6/ Who sometimes plays at CB Smith Reserve?
- 7/ Dusko Delic wears the colours of which Vodafone Cup team?
- 8/ St Melbourne and Preston Lions contested which trophy on the weekend?
- 9/ Who is now in charge at Diamond Valley?
- 10/ How many games did legend Johnny Warren actually play in Germany 1974?

Quiz answers...Look to the right of this page

ON THE BOX

The FFV Football Show

Channel 31
Wednesday, 9pm

Oakleigh v Kingston
South v Preston
Bulleen v Fawkner

The Green Gully Soccer Show

Channel 31
Saturdays, 10.30am

EPL, TBA v TBA
Fox Sports 2
Tuesday 28th Feb, 7am

EPL, West Brom v Chelsea
Fox Sports 1
Saturday 4th March, 11.45pm

EPL, West Ham v Everton
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 5th March, 2am

EPL, Liverpool v Charlton
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 5th March, 4.15am

EPL, Man City v Sunderland
Fox Sports 1
Monday 6th March, 12.30am

EPL, Tottenham v Blackburn
Fox Sports 1
Monday 6th March, 3am

EPL, Wigan v Man Utd
Fox Sports 2
Tuesday 7th March, 7am

EPL, Chelsea v Tottenham
Fox Sports 1
Saturday 11th March, 11.45pm

EPL, TBA v TBA
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 12th March, 2am

EPL, Blackburn v Aston Villa
Fox Sports 1
Sunday 12th March, 4.15am

The World Game
SBS
Sundays, 2pm – 5.30pm

FOOTBALL FUNNY

A little boy took his parents to court because he did not want to live with them anymore. The honored judge said to him "So why don't you want to live with your dad?" "Because he beats me" said the little boy. "Why don't you want to live with your mum then?" asked the judge. "Because she beats me as well." "Oh" said the judge "Well who would you like to live with then?" The little boy replied "I would like to live with Sunderland FC, because they don't beat anyone!!"

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Josep Skoda	2. Arctic Thompson	3. Sophie Skoda and Ahmed Elbachi	4. TBA	5. Franklin Pines
6. John	7. Sunshine Goddess	8. The Hammy Cup	9. Frank Dwyer	10. One in the
11. Football and Lead-	12. The Hammy Cup	13. Soccerbold's first match against	14. Team	15. East German

GiveMeFootball

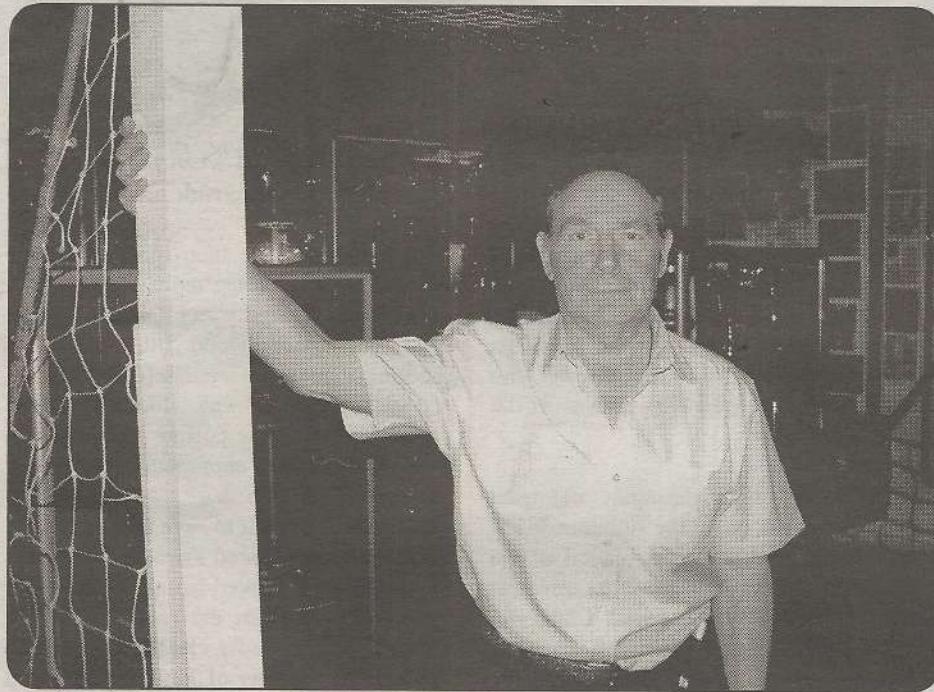
96.5 Inner FM Mondays 8pm

Issue #5

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with John Caniglia

FRANS VAN BALKOM

AUSTRALIA'S BEST COACH EVER?



August 11, 1976. Manuka Oval, Canberra. Less than five thousand fans turned out to see Australia take on what was then, and probably still now, considered a football minnow, Hong Kong. It was Jim Shoulder's first ever game in charge of Australia, and low and behold, they got done by a solitary goal. The man who masterminded Hong Kong's famous victory was none other than a naturalized Australian - Frans van Balkom - with Tang Hung Cheong netting the winner in the 21st minute.

The Dutch-born coach, who holds dual citizenship, was thrilled with his side's legendary win, the first time the Australian national team was beaten at home against Asian opposition. "When I became national coach of Hong Kong, we received an invitation for a full A-international from the Australian Federation. I felt good about it. We won one-nil and it was very satisfying. What was more satisfying was that I was approached after the game at the post-match reception by Sir Arthur George, the President of the federation. He wanted to know why an Australian was the coach of the enemy."

The answer to that question probably explains how things could have been a lot different for the experienced manager, including the outcome of the friendly. Just a year earlier, van Balkom applied for the position of national team coach with Australia, but seems to be of the impression that political innuendo got in the way of his appointment.

"I read an English football magazine, and it said that the Australian Soccer Federation was looking for five state coaches, a national coach and an assistant coach. So I applied, because it was a nice way to go back to Australia after spending time overseas. I was told I was in the last few for the job. I was in Tokyo at the time and I knew the interviews were in London. The federation told me I'd be sent to Sydney for an in-

terview because I was in Tokyo, but from that point, when my tickets to London never arrived, I knew what was happening. I was told the people in London didn't have the power to sign a new manager, but they did. I guess they screwed me up."

van Balkom is clearly one of, if not, Australia's most decorated coaches, not just because of the win in Canberra. He has worked with some of the greatest coaches of the world, amongst which is Weil Coerver, a former team mate in the Netherlands, Dittmar Cramer (Germany), Allen Wade (England), Rinus Michels (Holland) and Zagalo (Brazil).

"I worked with Weil all over the world. I learned more from Weil Coerver in one day than I did in 30 years with all the coaches I've worked with around the world. What is interesting is that I spoke to Weil just three weeks ago. Weil was almost crying. He said 'what the hell have they done with the program?' They just want to make money now and Weil is very upset about this because his name is associated with it."

One must not forget that the Coerver coaching school featured none other than Australia's own Harry Kewell. In a football sense, the coaching courses and clinics as they are today are not a reflection of the quality and prestige they were when the former European Cup winning Feyenoord coach headed up the program in the seventies. In the eighties, Coerver sold the business for around the ten thousand dollar mark to two people in the United States, and most of those associated with the program today don't even know the legendary coach and his values.

Similar to Coerver, van Balkom has spent a large part of his football career developing young players. He spent four years in the United States with the Busch Soccer Club, producing several United States national team players and countless youth internationals, and a year at Walsall in England as

the Head of Youth Development.

van Balkom feels he can add something to youth development in Australia, with the view for a coaching academy akin to the Victorian Institute of Sport, but with younger kids, equipping them with the skills and tactical knowledge to go all the way.

"I would love to start an academy in Australia for kids of the age 8-12. That's what I'm looking for, not the 14-15 age group. The older kids might still develop into quality players, but Australia has not produced one world class player yet. Harry Kewell is very good, but he's not the real thing. I'm not saying we haven't produced players that have the potential, but we haven't produced any that can make the difference, like a (Zinedine) Zidane. I want to create world class players who understand what it means to be a winner. They have to love the game, and have to do well at school at the same time. Australia has the potential to match it with the best."

The Dutch connection with Australian football doesn't just end with van Balkom. Needing no introduction, our national team coach, Guus Hiddink, and one of his assistants, Johan Neeskens, are also from the Netherlands. According to van Balkom, Australia couldn't be in better hands in the lead-up to and for the World Cup finals, and may just surprise some teams in the June. "Guus Hiddink is a hell of a manager. Guus is just about the best there is when it comes to handling players.

Frans van Balkom
Born 23 December 1939

Coaching achievements

1980 - Top of Iranian national league before the revolution (Sharbaz FC)
1982 - Winner Indonesian national league (Niac Mitra Surabaya)
1986-89 - Winner of 6 United States national championships (Busch SC)
1991 - Winner Saudi Arabian national league (Al Nahda Dammar)
1994 - Winner J-League and FA Cup in Japan (Yomiuri Verdy FC Kawasaki)

stop Brazil's forwards. If we played Brazil last, they might have taken it easy because they might have won two games already. It's the game against Croatia that will be the one. They are tactically very good, but we can surprise them."

His football pedigree goes back when he played for Roda JC in the Netherlands from the age of just ten, progressing from junior football to the amateur and professional ranks. He was forced to join the army as a youngster, and then saw out his Dutch career as a professional of just 22 years of age. He then received an invitation to join Caulfield Technical College in Melbourne as a physical education teacher, allowing him the opportunity to leave his heavily industrialised home town. In Australia, the left-back or left-winger spent five years playing for Ringwood Wilhelmina as a semi-professional before his illustrious coaching career began.

The best player Frans has seen in his sixty-five years was Portuguese great, Eusebio.

"It was 1968 I think, Benfica versus Porto. I was late into the stadium and didn't know which colours the teams were wearing. Benfica won 7-5 and Eusebio scored three. I have never seen a performance like that before."

He even coached George Best in Hong Kong in 1982/3 when the Englishman joined Royden FC as a guest player. "He was unbelievable. He was supposed to stay with us longer. He never ran with the ball, it was quite funny, but his first touch was absolutely brilliant" added van Balkom. AC Milan's Paolo Maldini is also another of Frans' favourites, with his ability to read the game and play at the top level for such a long time a testament to his outstanding quality.

His coaching career also included stints with the Indonesian national team, Al Nahda (Saudi Arabian first division), FC Kawasaki and Abirex Niigata (J-League, Japan), Patro Massmechelen (Belgian second division), EHC Norad (Netherlands) and DSC 99 Dusseldorf (Germany) amongst others. With such talent on our own doorstep, why the Aussie-Dutch master was overlooked for any A-League coaching short-list remains a mystery.

His next stop will be to conduct coaching clinics in Japan and Canada, similar to those he has been doing in over 20 countries for the last decade, before heading back to the Netherlands and Europe for the World Cup. Although currently residing in the south of the Netherlands, van Balkom is looking to make Australia his permanent home, adding his wealth of knowledge to the development of the world game down under.

By John Bonacci



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Monday 27 February



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINALS



CENTRAL COAST BOOK DATE WITH DESTINY



The Central Coast Mariners have shocked the A-League World overnight, upsetting title favourite Adelaide United in front of a disappointing crowd of just over 11,000 at Hindmarsh Stadium. It was an early goal from Tommy Pondeljak that settled the result, giving them an all New South Wales showdown against Sydney FC next Sunday afternoon.

The sides were still feeling each other out when Andre Gumprecht was released out wide. A seemingly harmless cross was hashed by Adelaide fullback Adam Van Dommele, where Tommy Pondeljak was the benefactor from six yards. One nil Mariners inside the first ten minutes.

Five minutes later the Mariners missed a glorious chance to double the advantage, when Alex Wilkinson missed a free header following a corner. This was a wakeup call for the Minor Premier and they finally came out to play. Travis Dodd was played on into the box where he intelligently squared the ball for Fernando Rech but this time it was Vukavic denying United an equaliser.

Adelaide started to up the anti and had the

Mariners under the cosh. However the Mariners were resilient at the back and smothered United at every opportunity and breaking them on the counter. Pondeljak was proving a menace up front and Gumprecht

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Adelaide Utd 0

Central Coast Mariners 1

Central Coast progresses to the Grand Final.

was making Constanzo uncomfortable in the middle of the park.

But it was United who looked the hungrier going into the break and were unlucky not to be level when Travis Dodd found space inside the box. Unfortunately his first time volley was well spooned over and the Mariners had the ascendancy going into the sheds.

The second half proved to be a war of attrition as the script was rather predictable. United threw everything at the Mariners, who were more than up for the task. Carl Veart missed a guilt edged chance following a Travis Dodd cross and moments later was substituted for Greg Owens who brought with him some fresh ideas to the Adelaide attack.

United started to get desperate and tried anything to break down the stubborn Mariners rearguard. First Dodd played a one two with Valkanis, but his cross was cut out at the near post by Andrew Clark and then Shing Qu found himself with space but fired his shot straight at the advancing Vukavic. Fernando Rech then saw his 20-yard free kick cannon off the crossbar and suddenly the Adelaide faithful sensed that this wasn't their day.

Jamie McMaster then replaced Andrew Gumprecht for the visitors in an attempt to stop the flow of Adelaide's middle runners as did Jason Spagnuolo for Fernando Rech to liven United's front pairing. And it was Spagnuolo had played a hand in the Ade-

laide's next attack when he squared for Shing Qu, only to fire wide of the mark.

Robbie Cornthwaite then replaced Richie Alagich to bring some more dimension to the United's creativity and it was his knock down that supplied Dodd with an excellent shooting chance, unfortunately he panicked and scuffed his shot well wide from twelve yards. Adelaide now pushed everyone forward as injury time approached.

Vukavic charged out to save the day for the Mariners as he cleared the ball away from Shing Qu, who looked certain to beat him to it and then from the resulting corner, Valkanis had a header cleared off the line much to this dismay of John Cosmina and the Hindmarsh faithful.

The three minutes of injury time were now up, the Minor Premier eliminated and the dark horse Mariners with nothing to lose, in what will be a clash of the titan's fixture to determine the country's inaugural A-League Champion.

By George Sahinidis



Goal! Weekly
5-a-Side Tournament
Hosted by Riversdale Soccer Club
March 26 2006

Enter today! Hurry, places are limited and there's a trophy and medals to play for!

How To Enter

Get your team together, give them a name and return the following entry form, via:
Email >> jjsm@ozoneline.com.au (visit www.riversdalesc.com.au for an electronic form)
Fax >> 03 9544 4255

Post >> Goal Weekly 5-a-Side, c/o 14 Cotswold Close, Vermont, 3133
(all entries must be received by Wednesday, March 15)

Date & Time: Sunday 26th March 2006 from 10.00 am

Venue: Frog Hollow Reserve, Fordham Avenue, Camberwell (Melways 60 B3)

Cost: \$200 per team (payment will be required prior to tournament. Upon your team being accepted, we will forward payment details to you)

Games: Each team guaranteed at least 4 x 16 minute games

Teams: Maximum of 10 players per squad (minimum 5, recommended 7-8)

TEAM NAME	
CONTACT PERSON	
POSTAL ADDRESS	
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL ADDRESS	

For more info, call John McPhee on 0407 899 994
or visit www.riversdalesc.com.au

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LETTERS

Dear Goal! Weekly,

In Eddie's article on Monday the 13th of Feb he was disappointed with the crowd numbers at the South vs. Berger's game.

There's probably a few reasons I think. First of all there was no a-league last year so people were starving for more soccer.

Also south had just entered the FFV after dropping out of the NSL so people were a bit excited and wanted to see how the FFV would be.

Thirdly Oakleigh and Kingston are taking a lot of their supporters who live in the east. And finally the 12000 crowd they got was at bob Jane stadium where the crowds are always bigger.

So the real test I think for this season is to see if the overall crowds are up for the whole league on last year.

From Steve, Melbourne

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE GRAND FINAL



SYDNEY FC
V
ADELAIDE UNITED

AUSSIE STADIUM
SATURDAY 4TH
MARCH
KO 8PM





STATE LEAGUE TWO S/E

Fixtures



Round 1

- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Knox City v South Springvale Egan Lee Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Waverley Wanderers Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Doncaster Rovers Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Cranbourne Comets Hd Thomas Reserve
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Clifton Hill United Partington Flats
- 1 Apr 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Clayton Ross Reserve

Round 2

- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Dingley City Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Diamond Valley United Comets Stadium
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Chelsea Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 9 Apr 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Doncaster Rovers Carlson Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM Clayton v Knox City Brandon Park Reserve
- 8 Apr 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Eastern Lions Warner Reserve

Round 3

- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Knox City Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Doncaster Rovers Warner Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Waverley Wanderers Hd Thomas Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Stonnington City Partington Flats
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Cranbourne Comets Ross Reserve
- 22 Apr 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Clayton Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)

Round 4

- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Clifton Hill United Comets Stadium
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Dingley City Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Diamond Valley United Carlson Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Clayton v Eastern Lions Brandon Park Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Chelsea Warner Reserve
- 29 Apr 06 3:00PM Knox City v Doncaster Rovers Egan Lee Reserve

Round 5

- 5 May 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Eastern Lions Wembley Park
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Knox City Hd Thomas Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v South Springvale Partington Flats
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Waverley Wanderers Ross Reserve
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Stonnington City Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 6 May 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Clayton Comets Stadium

Round 6

- 13 May 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Cranbourne Comets Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Clifton Hill United Carlson Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Clayton v Doncaster Rovers Brandon Park Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Dingley City Warner Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Knox City v Diamond Valley United Egan Lee Reserve
- 13 May 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Chelsea Gardiners Creek Reserve

Round 7

- 20 May 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Doncaster Rovers Hd Thomas Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Eastern Lions Partington Flats
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Knox City Ross Reserve
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v South Springvale Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Waverley Wanderers Comets Stadium
- 20 May 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Clayton Kooyong Reserve No. 3

Round 8

- 26 May 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Diamond Valley United Anderson Park
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Stonnington City Carlson Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Clayton v Chelsea Brandon Park Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Cranbourne Comets Warner Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Knox City v Clifton Hill United Egan Lee Reserve
- 27 May 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Dingley City Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Chelsea Partington Flats
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Doncaster Rovers Ross Reserve
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Eastern Lions Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Knox City Comets Stadium
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v South Springvale Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 3 Jun 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Clayton Carlson Reserve

Round 10

- 9 Jun 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Clifton Hill United Anderson Park
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Clayton Partington Flats
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Waverley Wanderers Warner Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Cranbourne Comets Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Dingley City Hd Thomas Reserve
- 10 Jun 06 3:00PM Knox City v Stonnington City Egan Lee Reserve

Round 11

- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Diamond Valley United Ross Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Chelsea Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Doncaster Rovers Comets Stadium
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Eastern Lions Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Knox City Carlson Reserve
- 17 Jun 06 3:00PM Clayton v South Springvale Brandon Park Reserve

Round 12

- 23 Jun 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Stonnington City Anderson Park
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Knox City Warner Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Eastern Lions Carlson Reserve
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Chelsea Comets Stadium
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Diamond Valley United Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 24 Jun 06 3:00PM Clayton v Dingley City Brandon Park Reserve

Round 13

- 30 Jun 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Waverley Wanderers Anderson Park
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Clifton Hill United Ross Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Cranbourne Comets Partington Flats
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Stonnington City Hd Thomas Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Knox City v Clayton Egan Lee Reserve
- 1 Jul 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v South Springvale Gardiners Creek Reserve

Round 14

- 7 Jul 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v South Springvale Anderson Park
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Knox City v Eastern Lions Egan Lee Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Chelsea Carlson Reserve
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Diamond Valley United Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Dingley City Comets Stadium
- 8 Jul 06 3:00PM Clayton v Clifton Hill United Brandon Park Reserve

Round 15

- 14 Jul 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Knox City Anderson Park
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Cranbourne Comets Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Stonnington City Ross Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Waverley Wanderers Partington Flats
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Clayton Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 15 Jul 06 3:00PM Chelsea v South Springvale Hd Thomas Reserve

Round 16

- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Doncaster Rovers Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Knox City v Chelsea Egan Lee Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Diamond Valley United Warner Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Dingley City Carlson Reserve
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Clifton Hill United Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 22 Jul 06 3:00PM Clayton v Cranbourne Comets Brandon Park Reserve

Round 17

- 28 Jul 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Clayton Anderson Park
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Stonnington City Comets Stadium
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Waverley Wanderers Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Dingley City v South Springvale Ross Reserve
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Knox City Partington Flats
- 29 Jul 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Eastern Lions Hd Thomas Reserve

Round 18

- 4 Aug 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Chelsea Anderson Park
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Diamond Valley United Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Knox City v Dingley City Egan Lee Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Clifton Hill United Warner Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v Cranbourne Comets Carlson Reserve
- 5 Aug 06 3:00PM Clayton v Stonnington City Brandon Park Reserve

Round 19

- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Waverley Wanderers Kooyong Reserve No. 3
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Clayton Hd Thomas Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v South Springvale Comets Stadium
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Knox City Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Eastern Lions Ross Reserve
- 19 Aug 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Doncaster Rovers Partington Flats

Round 20

- 25 Aug 06 8:30PM Doncaster Rovers v Dingley City Anderson Park
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Diamond Valley United Hd Thomas Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Clifton Hill United Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Knox City v Cranbourne Comets Egan Lee Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Stonnington City Warner Reserve
- 26 Aug 06 3:00PM Clayton v Waverley Wanderers Brandon Park Reserve

Round 21

- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Clayton v Diamond Valley United Brandon Park Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Waverley Wanderers v South Springvale Carlson Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Cranbourne Comets v Eastern Lions Comets Stadium
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Clifton Hill United v Doncaster Rovers Quarry Park (ex Yambala Res)
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Dingley City v Chelsea Ross Reserve
- 2 Sep 06 3:00PM Stonnington City v Knox City Kooyong Reserve No. 3

Round 22

- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Diamond Valley United v Dingley City Partington Flats
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Chelsea v Clifton Hill United Hd Thomas Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Doncaster Rovers v Cranbourne Comets Anderson Park
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Eastern Lions v Stonnington City Gardiners Creek Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM Knox City v Waverley Wanderers Egan Lee Reserve
- 9 Sep 06 3:00PM South Springvale v Clayton Warner Reserve

Draw Notes:

NO Matches Weekend 15/16 April 2006 - Easter

Catch-up Weekend 12/13 August 2006 - Clubs playing on this weekend will be notified by FFV

Egan Lee Reserve: Wallace Road, Knoxfield (73 A3)
 Gardiners Creek Reserve: Sixth Avenue, Burwood (60 J8)
 Kooyong Reserve No. 3: Glenferrie Road, Kooyong (59 D3)
 Hd Thomas Reserve: Edithvale Road, Edithvale (93 C9)
 Partington Flats: Kalparrin Ave, Greensborough (10 K12)
 Ross Reserve: Memorial Drive, Noble Park (80 D11)
 Quarry Park: Ramsden Street, Clifton Hill (2D B3)
 Comets Stadium: O'Toole's Road, Cranbourne (133 G6)
 Carlson Reserve: Clayton Road, Clayton (70 D9)
 Brandon Park Reserve: Ferntree Gully Rd, Brandon Park (71 C8)
 Warner Reserve: End of Virginia Street, Springvale (90 B8)

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Monday 27 February

Q. What does a couple of town planners, a wharfie, painter and consultant have in common?



A. They play 'For the Tip'

(5-a-side Indoor Soccer)

'C' Grade Champions 'For the Tip' play at Brimbank Futsal Club. Come and join a great social competition and fun atmosphere to challenge all players at different levels.

VICTORIAN JUNIOR FUTSAL ACADEMY will commence on Saturday 11th of March - 20th of May (REC West) Great opportunity for young children to learn Futsal from professional coaches and develop their skills for the future. For more information contact the numbers below.



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New Season Commencing Soon!

6.50pm Kick-Off (Mens)

Grading begins on 9th of March.

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March 23 - June 8

Season Two begins,
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